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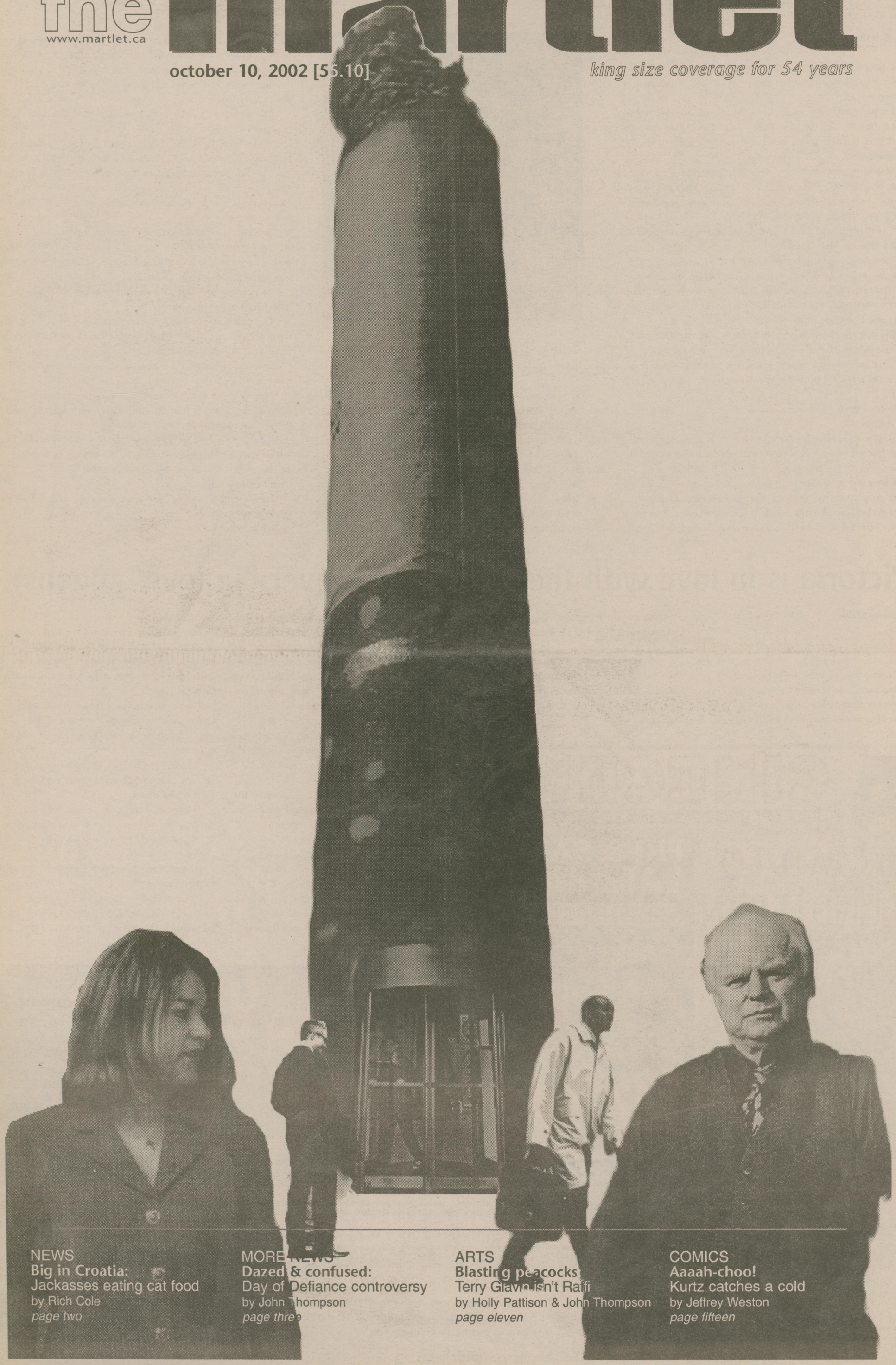

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"I thought it would taste like meat!" Clubjackass gets catty

by Rich Cole

Most people can't even feed a cat without yakking, but two weeks ago four UVic students scarfed down wet cat food, smelly gel-coating and all.

A crowd gathered around their table, appropriately labeled The First Annual Whiskas Cat Food Eating Contest. Speaking about the event later, but only giving their first names, the students recalled the spectacle.

"It was my idea," said Sean. "I've been pushing for this for years, and I finally got some people to compete against, so we did it. When I sat there waiting for the contest to begin, my strategy was to get through it as quickly as possible."

"I seriously did not think that it would taste bad. I thought it would taste like meat."

The referee blew the foghorn and the four guys sitting at the table began to scarf down can-fulls of moist cat food.

"The tuna flavour smelled okay," said Cam, one of the other lucky contestants. "But that gel layer on the outside was just nasty. The texture was kind of like Spam, but so much worse."

The shocked crowd laughed hysterically, and many onlookers pointed with one hand, while plugging their nose with the other.

"I feel sorry for cats now," Cam added. "It had the texture of fish scales and ash but there was definite chunks of other solid stuff."

"I don't think that anyone actually kept it down," said Kane, the referee.

Most would probably have called it quits after eating wet cat food, but not these guys. Next they downed a litre of whipping cream from the jug and started in on the dry cat food.

After a few more hurls from the contestants, accompanied by more groans from the audience, the referee ended the event.

"I'm really proud of the people that did the contest," said Kane. "I think that it's really disgusting. I wouldn't do it."

photo provided

Meow, meow, meow, meow, meow, meow, meow...

Appropriately, Sean won. The originator of the contest received a t-shirt, an "official winner" certificate, and a punch in the gut, after which he threw up again. But, although the event ended in success, the bodies of the contestants began to pay the toll.

"I brushed my teeth like five times, but still my breath tasted like cat food," said Cam.

"The smell of cat food does not come off your hand either," said Sean.

The cat-food contest is just one of many events undertaken by a group of crazy students who call themselves Clubjackass.

From cross-country skiing downtown in the middle of summer, to dressing up as the Karate Kid and doing martial arts moves at the front of the room before class, these guys are all about pranks.

Their exploits are filmed and put on their Web site, www.clubjackass.com.

"The Web site I guess was my idea," said Kane. "It started over two years ago.

"We've been doing stupid shit for years, but we just decided to start videotaping it. Some accused us of copying the MTV Jackass, but Clubjackass started before we ever saw the show. My buddy Craig used to call everyone "jackass," so we named it after that. Now that we have an awesome film editor, Justin, we're doing more clips then ever."

Their Web site has attracted international attention.

"We get messages around the world," says Kane. "We have one posted from this guy in Croatia that sent us his picture and said he was starting a jackass club as well."

The Web site currently has had more than 60,000 hits in the two years it has been online.

"Our goal is to get 100,000 hits," says Kane. "When it happens we're going to get all of the staff together and have a 100-beer party. That would be pretty cool."

However, the Web site has been under scrutiny from UVic's campus security.

Nothing official ever happened, but the jackasses felt that things were starting to heat up, and voluntarily decided to make the site inaccessible from any UVic server.

However, this week Kane removed the block from the UVic servers stating, "I hope it's blown over. We don't even associate ourselves with UVic, all the Web site says is that we are just Canadian university students."

"I don't think that there's one video where we actually hurt an innocent person," said Justin.

"It's all in fun."

Victoria is in love with the Queen (whatever "in love" means)

by Marie Mallis

The crowds on the waterfront said it all: this city is in love with royalty. Thousands came out on Sunday to welcome Queen Elizabeth II during her Golden Jubilee Canadian tour visit.

People arrived early to get a spot on the fence. The crowd grew until it was a sea of colour and commoners, awaiting her Majesty on the streets of one of her oldest colonial cities.

Everybody was talking about what *she* would be wearing (as if there was any doubt about the salmon duffel), what *she* would say. Would *she* take the flowers or not? Would *she* shake a hand?

Oh! If anyone could be so lucky.

And yes, some were.

The Queen accepted flowers, smiled, did her signature wave, got in the royal car (2002, fully loaded, heated seats, metallic-gold Lincoln) that awaited her on Government Street, and drove on to the legislature. The ceremonies there were short. The crowd cheered the Queen, booed Gordon Campbell, and shoved and vied for position in the afternoon sun.

The Queen stood on the steps and heard the Premier talk of this province's particular love for her Majesty.

She saw the Haida dance, and listened to the sweet sound of our youth singing "Oh Canada," harmonized by a thousand voices in the crowd.

Just as the five-minute moment was drawing to a close, the thunder of the Snowbirds echoed through the city and the heady sight of Canada's air-force elite drew gasps and whoops from the crowd.

The Snowbirds swept down to salute the Queen, passing through the spires of the legislature, their tail wind whipping our flag to attention.

"I have been waiting a long time for this," said self-proclaimed loyal monarchist Robert Murray McDonald.

"I love her [the Queen], she is beautiful, symbolically really precious... of understanding, liberty, joyous occasions, and freedom of choice."

However, one Vancouver College of the Arts student disagreed.

"Why should we support a royal family that hasn't been our family for over 50 years?" asked Josh, who withheld his last name.

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Wildcat pickets erect barricades, block campus

by John Thompson, David Ball & Leigh Philips

Finding a parking spot on campus was more difficult than usual on Monday morning.

Wooden barricades, flaming oil-drums and giant puppets stood as a backdrop for picketers who obstructed every entrance to the UVic campus that morning, sealing the university shut and backing up traffic all the way to Shelbourne Street.

"The campus is closed, as the campus will be closed in the years to come as tuition continues to increase for low-income students," said Andrea Mears, one of the Day of Defiance protest organizers. "This is organized by citizens concerned with the cuts and how they're going to impact their lives."

The tuition-fee increase, projected to raise the cost of attending university by nearly 100 per cent over the next three years, was just one of the provincial government policies criticized by protestors. Hospital closures, reduced welfare benefits, and other cutbacks that affect marginalized groups were cited by many of the students, unionized workers, and anti-poverty activists who participated in the blockade.

Most drivers were acquiescent about being blocked from campus, though there were several exceptions. Around 8 a.m., the driver of a red pickup truck tried to ram the wooden blockade assembled at the stadium entrance to the university. Unsuccessful, he backed up and detoured over a grassy slope, while a protester smashed her picket sign over the vehicle before it drove away. The truck driver was later arrested by police.

Not long after, at 8:30 a.m., a sport utility vehicle bypassed the blockade by parking lot five by driving off the road and through the trees. Picketers watching said it proved that education is only accessible for wealthier students with all-terrain vehicles.

At the picket line crossing UVic's Henderson Road entrance, a small group of engineering students from residence, angry with the picketers because their professor had not turned up to class, organized their own counter-protest.

One of the engineering students said, "Tuition fees are the least of our worries. A couple of extra student loans, if you have to take them, isn't a big deal. So far I haven't even had to take one."

Reactions from students who did cross the picket lines were mixed.

"I think they definitely have a right to protest, but I had a test at 8:30," said Donna Lile, a second-year humanities student. "I don't think I know enough about it to agree or disagree, so I'm going to read up about it."

Others expressed frustration.

"I think that they're a bunch of children," said Todd Cameron, a second-year business student. "The government is their parents and they just won't move out of the house and grow up."

Despite confusion throughout the day, the pickets were not organized by the UVic Students' Society (UVSS).

Troy Sebastian, chair of the UVSS, said he supports efforts to protest government cutbacks and the tuition increase, but expects many students were confused by the blockade.

"There was just rumours and speculation until (Monday) morning. The main problem (with the blockade) is that the message conveyed to members is unclear. I see it as a bit of a missed opportunity," he said.

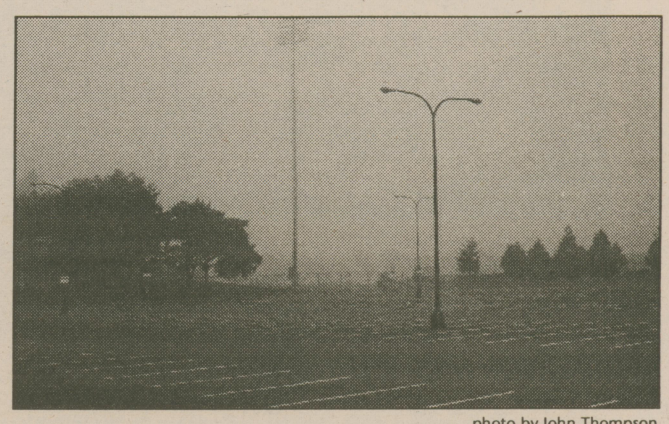

photo by John Thompson

The usually busy stadium parking lot stands empty on Monday morning.

While many classes were cancelled, faculty were expected to work that morning unless they felt unsafe crossing the picket line, said a university spokesperson.

"The university remained open," said Bruce Kilpatrick, communications officer for UVic.

He added that UVic did not consider the blockades a legal picket, contrary to the claims of the people manning the blockades.

"There was no labour dispute at the University of Victoria," he said. "This morning was a protest, not a picket line."

Similarly, Student Union Building employees were issued a memo by General Manager Marne Jensen last week, instructing them they "have both the right and the responsibility to report to work."

The memo, approved by the UVSS executive, also told employees that footpath entrances to the university were "best for avoiding conflict."

Picketers were shocked the UVSS would try to break the lines.

"The memo was worse than the one the administration went out," said Indu Vashist, one of the organizers.

Day of Defiance protest snakes its way through city

by Matt Bigelow

Gordon Campbell was stabbed, beaten, kicked, spat on, and burned at the stake at the legislature in the final moments of the Day of Defiance protest on Monday, Oct. 7. Or at least two reasonable facsimiles were.

Effigies of the Premier were savaged by protesters during the Day of Defiance march and rally against the B.C. Liberals.

The protest snaked through the city for over three hours, stopping at various locations for speeches before ending on the legislature lawn at 1 p.m.

Denise Savoie, a Victoria city councilor, was enthusiastic about the number of people who took to the street. "I think it speaks to the need for people to express themselves this November (for the municipal elections) in a majority on council that stands up for the community."

Councilor Rob Fleming, a former UVic student, agreed.

"Local governments are going to be a real site of redefinition and struggle. We need an opposition through the municipal councils in the province."

Throughout the day spokespeople for a number of local activist groups addressed issues concerning Liberal policies.

At the Welfare and Treaty office, First Nations speaker Rose Henry said staff had barricaded doors with tables and chairs. "It's a revelation on how accessible this government is," she said.

"Gordon Campbell should be ashamed when he says that he looks after the interests of First Nations," she said.

UVSS Students of Colour Collective representative Sharmeen Khan spoke at the Ministry of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services, labelling it the "Ministry of Lost Causes." Khan said funding is being terminated for the Ministry, which provides aid to First Nations and other people of colour.

"The Liberals no longer provide income assistance to refugees awaiting their immigration status," Khan said.

"Refugee claimants, who already cannot work due to their status, will be further impoverished and socially isolated due to the denial of income assistance," she added.

The crowd continued to snake through Victoria's streets before stopping at MLA Jeff Bray's office where Lisa MacPherson spoke. MacPherson is a spokesperson for the Kimberly Rogers Womyn's Brigade, a group named after an Ontario woman who died due to welfare cutbacks. The Brigade occupied Bray's office during the summer.

"The government is targeting people with mental illnesses to balance the budget," she said. "We want to guarantee an annual livable income for everybody."

Several groups from Vancouver joined Victorian protestors at the legislature.

A group of 10 women from the Downtown Eastside Women's Centre rallied on the lawn, alongside local groups.

Agatha Reid, volunteer and advocate, said the Centre is in danger of being shut down by the Liberal government. As a single mom with five children, Reid said she was protesting for women who are in similar situations.

"It's affected me," she said. "And I'm here to support people like us."

"We want to be heard before it affects our children. They are our future, we want them (the government) to prove it to us."

The other half of their group was at a corresponding march and rally in Vancouver on Monday.

At the tail end of the march, BC Federation of Labour President Jim Sinclair, spoke. "Everywhere I go I see more pain and despair caused by bad decisions by this government who have no concern for the consequences of their actions. (The demonstration) is a sign that opposition to this government is growing."

Sinclair was disturbed by suggestions that the BC Federation of Labour did not support the actions of the day.

"The Communities Solidarity Coalition is a broad coalition. The labour movement is more narrow. We have to work together to find our common ground to oppose this government. I have no time for divisions at this point. We have to be together."

With files from Leigh Phillips and Suzanne Beaubien

photo by Erik Haensel

Hey, hey. Ho, Ho. The tree in the foreground has got to go.

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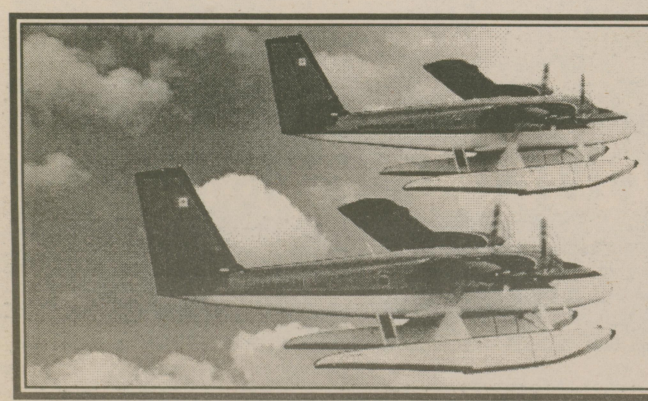
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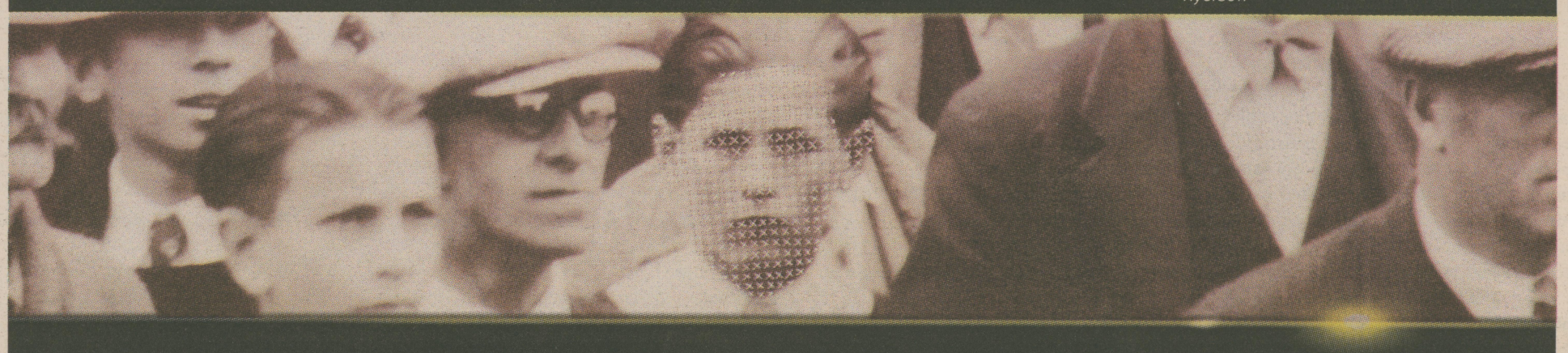

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UN Arms Inspector warns against Iraq war

by Loren Mullane

Canadians must act now to avert a war with Iraq, former United Nations (UN) weapons inspector Scott Ritter says.

Ritter told an audience of hundreds at UVic last Thursday that a war with Iraq is only the beginning of an aggressive American unilateralism, a policy that is laid out in Bush's National Security Strategy.

Released three weeks ago, the document states the United States has the right to pre-emptively strike not only rogue countries that threaten American security, but also countries that attempt to surpass, or equal, the power of the United States.

"Iraq is merely the case study of American imperialism," said Ritter. "If you allow the United States to step down that path of unilateralism we're all in trouble."

A former marine intelligence officer, Ritter was hired by the UN in September 1991 to search out and destroy Iraq's biological, chemical and nuclear weapons. He resigned in August of 1998, accusing the U.S. of undermining the inspectors and the UN of bowing to Iraqi pressure to back off inspections.

Ritter disputes the Bush administration's contention that a pre-emptive strike against Iraq is necessary because the country possesses weapons of mass destruction that could be used against the U.S.

Ritter said the inspectors destroyed 95 per cent of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction. Although he agrees Iraq could have rebuilt its weapons program after the inspectors left in 1998, he said the Bush administration has failed to provide evidence that the Iraqi government has done so.

Ritter said UN inspectors should return to Iraq to assess the risk. Though Iraq has invited the inspectors to return, Bush has blocked their initiative because his real aim is to overthrow Saddam Hussein, Ritter said. "It's not about weapons of mass destruction. It's about regime removal," he said.

Ritter said "regime removal" is a policy begun by George Bush Senior during the Gulf War, and later adopted by Clinton.

"This policy of regime removal corrupted the inspection process from the very start," Ritter said. The UN resolution states that sanctions will be applied to Iraq until all the country's weapons of mass destruction are destroyed. Ritter said the U.S. administration, bent on regime removal, did not wish to see the inspectors complete their work because sanctions would be lifted with Saddam still in power.

While inspecting for weapons, the United Nations Special Commission (UNSCOM) uncovered sensitive intelligence, which revealed the security precautions taken to protect Hussein. In December 1998, the Clinton administration unilaterally pulled weapons inspectors out of Iraq and used the sensitive information in an attempt to assassinate the Iraqi leader with air strikes, Ritter said. When the Iraq government realized the U.S. had used the intelligence gathered by the inspectors to target Hussein, they refused to allow inspectors to return.

Ritter proposes a multilateral approach to remove Hussein. If the UN indicted Hussein as a war criminal, as they have done with former Serbian president Slobodan Milosevic, Ritter predicted the Iraqi government would turn over Hussein in six months.

A card-carrying Republican, Ritter responded to a question from the audience that he was a "marine" not a "pacifist" and that he would go to war against Iraq if the country was shown to contravene the UN resolution prohibiting it to possess weapons of mass destruction.

photo by Vanessa Neumann

Push it. Push it real good. Students raised money for the United Way last Friday, Oct. 4, in the annual UVic Bug push.

CFS and CASA rally for changes to federal transfers

by David Burke

ST. JOHN'S (CUP) -- Canada's top two student organizations have found common ground thanks to a proposal to alter federal transfer payments to benefit post-secondary education.

The Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) and the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) both agree the federal government should earmark a portion of the Canadian Health and Social Transfer (CHST) for post-secondary spending.

"Our thoughts on this are that wherever there is common ground it makes sense to have a common message," said Erin Stevenson, CASA spokesperson.

Both the CFS and CASA want the federal government to alter the format of CHST payments so that at least part of the CHST can be spent on post-secondary education.

Provinces can use the CHST any way they please, though they usually choose to put it into health care said Jean-Michel Catta, Finance department spokesman.

"To make the CHST strictly for post-secondary education might not allow for provinces to put the money where they think it might be needed like health," he said.

Ian Boyko, CFS national chair, says it's reasonable to ask the federal government to allocate CHST money to universities and colleges.

"When we're asking for increases, what we're asking for is that they actually dedicate money to education so it receives the proper amount of funding necessary."

Customs charged with censorship

Pro-Israeli newsletters confiscated at border

by Chris Wilson-Smith

TORONTO (CUP) -- Three hundred fifty copies of a newsletter defending Israel's moral right to exist, which were on their way to the University of Toronto, failed to make it past the Canadian border on Thursday.

The newsletters were being sent from the California-based Ayn Rand Institute to the University of Toronto Objectivist Club in preparation for a meeting on Sunday, which will feature a lecture by Dr. Yaron Brook, the executive director of the Institute.

Customs officials informed Ray Girn, the president of the club, that they were investigating whether the newsletter constituted "hate speech."

"The only thing they had to go on was the title 'In Moral Defense of Israel,' and apparently they opened a sealed box on that basis," said Girn. "They then sent me a terse letter saying that they would inform me in writing of their decision."

Girn said he left numerous messages with Customs on Thursday, asking about their criteria for judging hate speech and the status of the newsletters. He said their only response was a message which would not disclose details of the investigation.

Canada Customs and Revenue Agency released the newsletters this morning, but not before they were sent to Ottawa for "closer scrutiny."

Custom's guidelines say, "Goods that constitute hate propaganda under the Criminal Code are those which advocate or promote genocide or promote hatred against an identifiable group distinguished by colour, race, religion or ethnic origin."

"Clearly we are not advocating violence or discrimination," said Brook. "I believe that rules should exist to stop hate propaganda. Our newsletter is an intellectual argument in defence of Israel. That is not a crime."

Customs officials could not be reached for comment.

Calling the confiscation "nothing less than spooky," Dr. Brook said it raises many issues, including examining the definition of the term "hate speech."

"Given the anti-Israeli sentiment on so many campuses and in so many books out there, I think it's ironic that something that finally defends Israel from all perspectives gets stopped by customs," said Dr. Brook.

Some of the discussions in the newsletter include, "Allowing Israel to Destroy the PLO Helps Defend the U.S." and "Radical Islam's Assault on Human Life."

Under federal regulations, Customs is permitted to confiscate material for a period of three days before making a decision over whether to release it.

"This is censorship," said Dr. Brook. "Those are three days that Canadian citizens will not be able to read my material. I'm not just worried about my stuff - even people who are opposed to me have a right to make their arguments and be heard. Canadians can think for themselves."

Although Girn said he isn't expecting more problems relating to the literature, he is concerned about thepossibility of protesters at the event on Sunday.

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Editorial

Day of... Mild Disapproval?

Monday Oct. 7 felt like a Day of Strongly-Worded-Complaint, or a Day of Something-A-Little-Bit-More-Forceful-Than-A-Letter-To-Your-MLA, rather than a Day of Defiance.

Let's be realistic: The Campbell government doesn't care if thousands of British Columbians demonstrate on the steps of the legislature, as they did in February. This government will pay no attention if those numbers double or triple. But it *is* possible to make a difference. But, without better focus and planning, the movement doesn't stand a chance.

The Day of Defiance was intended to be a step down a road of more militant action. But, between poor organizing, communication and coalition-building on the part of some of the planners and a growing conservative skepticism on the part of some of the student and trade union leadership and staff, the Day of Defiance was much less than it could have been.

Organizers wanted to maintain the element of surprise, lest employers, through the courts, slapped an injunction on any union participating. But in order to gain that very surprise, organizers lost parts of an otherwise mostly supportive membership as they turned up for work or school and were told, seemingly out of nowhere, that offices or classrooms were closed.

At best, this was counter-productive; at worst, it bordered on the undemocratic. The cloak-and-dagger stuff has got to go.

If the Day was supposed to be Defiant, then surely defying any injunction that administrators or employers might procure goes along with the general theme. If protesters are not at least willing to defy injunctions, then the government already has them thumpingly beat.

In the future, perhaps these sorts of actions could be organized openly to try to draw in as many as possible.

The campus picket lines on Monday were the tightest and most supported of any on campus over the last few years. And this without any advance notice. So had there been a strike vote, or some sort of consultation process whereby students and staff felt they had some ownership over the process, surely the lines would have been even stronger and many more would have attended the rally downtown.

In this province, in this city, on this campus, there's no shortage of people who have problems with Gordon Campbell and his government. Maybe there aren't enough to recall the MPs. But maybe there are enough that, if people can form a united front, they might present a significant threat to the status quo.

Politics is a popularity contest, and no leader is going to seriously consider a change of course unless they think the tide is turning against them. Campbell knows he's pissed some people off, but he also knows his party got in with a pretty comfy majority.

A few whiners here and there aren't a real threat to his power.

He's got important work to do and it's going to take a pretty loud wake-up call to stir him.

So maybe organizers of future defiant days should truly get everyone together. Launch events that all the anti-Campbell people can actually get behind, that they can support without reservation. Communicate. Tell people exactly what's happening and where and when and why.

Then maybe, just maybe, we will see some changes.

Editorial topics are decided on by staff at editorial meetings. Editorials are written by one or more staff members, and are not necessarily the opinion of all staff members.

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Student voice

Tax cuts, not barricades, Comrades.

by Dallas Henault

Fear mongering seems to be a common trait here on the UVic campus.

Facts often become distorted.

It is obvious then there is a rising battle between the left-wing and the right-wing on the campus, mirroring a very polarized province. This became more evident on Monday, as groups of students blocked entrances to thousands of other students coming to school.

I want to respond to accusations from the Students' Society and many other organizations about the tax cuts announced by the Gordon Campbell government shortly after their election victory last year.

In British Columbia, we had tax rates among the highest in Canada. The reductions in the tax rates announced in June 2001 gave an across-the-board cut of 25 per cent, so that, in principle, all British Columbians were treated equally.

But let us look at the effects of the high tax rates: According to Statistics Canada, 415,000 people left British Columbia for Alberta between 1996 and 2000. These probably weren't all the "corporate elite" of British Columbia. If these 415,000 people were British Columbians earning $30,000 a year, that's a tremendous loss. For this tax bracket, the tax rate at the time of the government transition in 2001 was 8.4% (and it should be noted that this rate was after the NDP's "tax cuts"). Now, at this rate, someone earning $30,000 a year would pay $2,520 a year in tax. Multiply that by the 415,000 people that left the province during this period, and that's a revenue loss of $1.05 billion.

That's money that could have financed our underfunded universities, our health care system and other social programs. Now, if those 415,000 people had been in the top income tax brackets, imagine how much revenue our province would have lost. So it is in the best interest of the provincial government to lure everyone back to British Columbia, so that we can have the strongly funded programs that we want.

To say that the Campbell government has declared war on the poor and working class of the province is still more fear mongering. Don't forget that when the government increased MSP premiums, thousands of British Columbians saw their premiums decrease or even become eliminated. I want to make clear that because the NDP government never compensated universities for the fee freeze, accessibility did in fact decline.

You need money to run operations, don't you?

And to those who argue in favour of free education: Please look at our K-12 education system that's free. It isn't the fact that it's free that allows so many students to graduate from secondary school. It's ambition and motivation to succeed. If you want to drop out of high school, you're going to find a reason to do so. Accomplishing a milestone comes from encouragement from friends and family, not money.

A remark was made in the last *Martlet* about how the government should not spend money on the Olympic bid. Spending $5 million now might yield increasing returns to scale - a hell of a lot more money than $5 million. Say, possibly $5 billion? Wouldn't that be great to finance social programs such as advanced education or health care, to which the government has not cut any funding?

The health care budget increased under Gordon Campbell by $1.1 billion - much more than the $549 million in 2000 or the $228 million in 1998 under the NDP administration. So much for Gordon Campbell privatizing health care, and the NDP being social saviours.

So I ask you: How are your elected student representatives acting on your behalf? Even the campus dog catcher knew what was happening on the morning of Oct. 7. Why weren't they there to help students trying to get to classes?

Is it because the students don't think like the activists? And are they spending your and my fees accordingly? What about the 649-style cheque, costing $150, sitting in the resource center now?

Do all students agree with these principles? I think not.

Dallas Henault is Vice-President of the UVic BC Young Liberals.

Editor's Note

Welcome to flavour country

This week, for the first time in years, an ad for cigarettes graces the pages of *the Martlet*.

Now, we don't want to get all defensive here (he said defensively), but we felt a word or three of explanation was necessary.

The Martlet has a pretty extensive ad boycott list. The list details companies and organizations we won't accept ads from, for a variety of political and moral reasons. It will appear in the paper in a couple of weeks, after our annual general meeting. It looks pretty much the same as it did last year. Except that last year it included tobacco companies and this year it doesn't.

So what's going on? Why the big sell-out?

Well, this summer, the *Martlet* ad boycott committee met. Tobacco ads were on the agenda. We needed some money, y'see, so that we could buy some new equipment. Put out a better paper, give the staff and volunteers a better environment in which to work and learn. So we put it on the agenda and the committee voted unanimously in favour of lighting up.

Here's something we should make very clear: the fact that we have ads from the big tobacco folks does not, I say does not, give the big boys any control or influence in this paper.

We are independent. We do not depend.

We'll take money from these people, but what we use it for is our damn business. If we want to run a feature on the ills of the tobacco industry, we will. No one is controlling us here. If we do something that displeases any of our advertisers, well, hey, they don't have to advertise with us. But nothing that goes in this paper is in any way influenced by any desire to stay on anybody's good side.

Realistically, people aren't going to start smoking because they see an ad in *the Martlet*. If we wielded that much power and influence, you'd see us cruising the campus in gold-plated golf carts, smoking oversized cigars, laughin' it up at the University Club.

These ads are really to get existing smokers to embrace a particular brand. At least, that's what we're telling ourselves. But that's up for debate.

So let's debate. Come on. To quote Al Pacino in *Heat*, "Gimme all ya got! Gimme all ya got!" We're pounding on the table here. Talk to us.

The Martlet's ad boycott committee is meeting again this week. Recommendations will be sent to the annual general meeting, blah blah blah. If you care about this, come down and be part of the process.

So there you go. The ad is in. It'll piss some of you off, no doubt, and we look forward to hearing from you. Lively debate. Bring it on. But, for now, we are lit.

[2002/2003]
martlet
UVic's Student Paper

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The Martlet is an incorporated B.C. society and a full member of Canadian University Press (CUP). We strive to act as an agent of constructive social change and we will not print racist, sexist, homophobic or otherwise oppressive copy.

letters: *the Martlet* has an open letters policy and will endeavour to print every letter received from the university community, with priority given to undergraduate students. Letters must be typewritten, submitted on disk or by e-mail and include your name and student number for verification. Letters must be 200 words maximum. Deadline for letters is noon on the Friday before publication date. Letters will be prioritized by order received. Letters with pseudonyms or group names will not be printed.

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Student voice

Corporate concentration of the mass media a drag

by Nathan Elliot

In the wake of the Campaign for Press and Broadcast Freedom two years ago, media activists have designated Oct. 18 as Media Democracy Day. This year, organizers in Vancouver are holding a free day-long event at the Vancouver Public Library. This year's event features an independent media fair, a series of workshops, and a panel discussion featuring *Adbusters* editor James MacKinnon, *Georgia Straight* columnist Bill Tieleman and University of Victoria journalism instructor Lynne Van Luven.

Media Democracy Day centres around three related actions: education, protest, and change. They work to promote media literacy, challenge corporate control of the media system and encourage reforms. Ultimately, proponents of Media Democracy Day contend that we won't live in a democracy until we have a democratized media - one that is capable of representing pluralistic values and facilitating broad public debate.

The lack of diversity in mainstream media content - most often attributed to commercialization and the concentration of media ownership - is increasingly recognized by the general public and civil society as an obstruction to open and accessible debate and a deterrent to representative public policy.

In a recent poll by Strategic Communications, a Vancouver-based communications company, 74.7 per cent of respondents agreed that "Freedom of expression in the media is a cornerstone of Canadian democracy." The compromise of this principle by an exclusive media and its political implications is being seen as important terrain for social movements; a more democratic media should include alternative viewpoints and is in itself a necessary component of a free society.

In Canada, increasing concentration of media ownership has long been a concern. In 1970, the Special Senate Committee on Mass Media was formed in response to the 45 per cent share of daily newspaper circulation controlled by three chains. Today that share has risen to 72 per cent. Dramatic rises in ownership concentration have also occurred in television and radio. Combined with the effect of conglomeration – in which companies control a variety of mediums - we have a situation where fewer and fewer corporate bodies oversee increasing amounts of our mediated experience.

A primary concern of media activists is the corporate control of news and information. Media corporations are reliant on revenue derived from major advertisers and are responsible to the controlling power of owners and editors. The commercial pressure on mainstream media chains influences their content. The effects of commercialization include the heavy reliance on standardized wire copy, the censorship of stories critical of advertising interests, increasing amounts of info-tainment, cross promotion of commercial material within related media channels and the manufacture of news content by public relations firms. Critics argue this commercialization of news discourse displaces the centrality of public interest in the delivery of information. In a commercial paradigm, stories affecting marginal groups may be overlooked or examined from a business perspective.

News content and editorial policy are regulated by editors and may also be strongly influenced by the owners who appoint them. In the 1990s, editors at the *Ottawa Citizen* and the *Montreal Gazette* resigned and journalists at the *Calgary Herald* went on strike in response to the rightward shift in editorial policy by new ownership. The ability of journalists to follow different perspectives may be stifled by the chill caused by the large number of layoffs that often accompany media mergers, and the knowledge that contentious stories will be rejected and discouraged.

Emergent technology and alternative media are sometimes pointed to as spaces for peripheral voices. Although important, the communicative restrictions of such outlets – such as limited distribution and the cost of producing quality programming – limit their influence and do not provide justification for the exclusive access of mainstream media. The Internet may be growing as a medium for news discourse but critics point out the replication of standardized and commercial content on major news sites, the lack of localized coverage offered, and the lack of access for many Canadians.

Media activists are encouraging the enactment of legislative policies that will create greater corporate responsibility.

Despite the fact that our airwaves are considered public and the media is regarded as a public trust, the willingness of governments to seriously consider media reforms is questionable. Media companies make large financial donations to political parties and provide the coverage of political campaigns – which some activists claim reflects on the supposed impartiality of mainstream media and the reluctance of political leaders to exert pressure on their operations.

Activists also point out that even if the political will to enact media reforms exists, international trade agreements can make it difficult to regulate and protect domestic media.

Events like Media Democracy Day are planned to bring these issues into the public sphere, discuss their implications, and encourage personal and collective responses. Genuine competition in the market, diverse offerings and a commitment to public interest are among the initiatives likely to be considered.

Contributing to perversion in our society

Longfellows in the library

I am writing in regard to your Sept. 26 cover: an overexposed 'born again' pervert lifting a dildo with chains around it to her neck like a knife to a jugular.

Why put this on the cover when your feature article is on tree planting? Is it because you wanted to grab my attention with... God forbid... is that really... a dildo?

Lame.

I don't want to see that. All you're doing is contributing to perversion in our society. Do you think that someone who was brutally molested by a dildo would find this cover appealing?

I'm not saying dildos are bad. Just don't publish them in my face with the money I contribute to *the Martlet* by way of my student fees. This is Victoria, land of green trees and the outdoors. You should have gone with the tree planting story.

Yes, we live in a free society. Long live free speech! But, just because someone on your staff has a dildo fetish, that doesn't mean their post-modern artistic tendencies should be satisfied. Post modernism is dead.

Ryan Nast

Blockades undemocratic

Just so we are clear: Picketing a job site without asking the workers is no less undemocratic or authoritarian than ordering them back to work. Strikes are sacred and workers shouldn't be subjected to the will of the 'unidentified' and 'undemocratic' few. What would *you* say if an employer told a worker to go home without pay and without notice?

Richard Tones,
Resource Co-ordinator, UVSS

Editorial cartoon hateful

So let's see if I get this straight. A violent, pro-Palestinian mob shouting Jew-hating slogans, spitting on people who want to see Netanyahu speak and throwing pennies at Jewish students at Concordia is quite permissable here in Canada. Here in Canada. Canada. Do I have to say it again? Canada. Is *the Martlet* implying that it's quite all right to deny a person his or her right to speak simply because they are Israeli? Or is it all right to deny Netanyahu the right to speak because *the Martlet* disagrees with what he says? And you wonder why immigration to Israel from the USA, and Canada has gone up in the past year. While I may not agree with anything Netanyahu has to say, I was quite disappointed to see the manner in which he was denied his right to speak in Montreal and the manner in which *the Martlet* has endorsed this travesty.

The editorial cartoon published in *the Martlet* of Sept. 26 is only an indication of how biased, uninformed, irresponsible and downright hateful the editorial staff of *the Martlet* are concerning this issue.

Josh Peters

Pushing the bug too far

First off, we would like to say that we support UVic's Engineering Student Society for organizing the annual Bug Push to raise money for the United Way. We pushed last year, and left the event feeling positive.

Unfortunately, this year the experience wasn't quite so positive. It would have been great if it weren't for a certain engineering student in the escort van. Drunk on the power of his bullhorn, he shouted increasingly rude and obnoxious comments throughout our one hour shift. He decided to end the night with a stunning, "C'mon, ladies, act like it's labour and push!"

We came to this event because we had a great time last year and we wanted to have a good time again. Instead, we left feeling like our efforts were not only not valued, but completely trivialized by the idiotic and arrogant attitude exhibited by the dork with the bullhorn. We have to question why someone who has so little respect for female volunteers would want to participate in this event at all.

We hope you're reading, whoever you are, and we hope that you think a little bit more about how your interactions with the rest of UVic's student populace will reflect on the event you represent next year.

Jess Heath, Katie MacGregor and Anna Richards

Up the Republic!

The cover of the Oct. 3 issue of *the Martlet* was not funny.

I don't know who you think you guys are. You don't have any right to draw on the face of our Queen. I'm far from a royalist, but the Queen is an important part of our country's history and tradition. Regardless of your personal opinions, you should try your best to publish content that represents the opinions of the students and reports the most accurate issues.

We are a long way from Grade 6, when defacing pictures was funny.

Grow up and please don't waste our already too expensive student tuition fees.

Marc Burroni

Do giant puppets offer solutions?

Protesting on campus is great. You can show your solidarity, get some coverage on an issue you care about, and even get people to listen who normally wouldn't care.

The protest early Oct. 7th at UVic failed at all three.

If Gordon Campbell was coming to UVic that morning, I would have thought the protest was great timing, and rather ironic.

But he wasn't. The people coming to UVic were students and faculty affected by cuts.

Showing solidarity by having one group of students try to block access of the school for another group doesn't work. All it does is discourage others to get involved when they arrive Monday morning for their midterms, and find people dressed as large puppets trying to stop them. The majority of students didn't have any major prior warning.

Also, the strategy of closing the campus, and asking people to not cross a picket line on a day of midterms seemed to fail.

Given the choice between losing 15 per cent of my mark, or sticking around to have an intelligent conversation with a protester on why this was happening, I would go to my midterm.

What kind of solutions did the protest offer? In a roundabout way, it advertised for the larger protest downtown that called for a general strike.

What happens after the general strike?

Protests at UVic have the potential to get a lot of students involved, but not this one.

Jocelyn Beyak

A journey around my neur

Fear of flying, frying & c

by Sandra Walter

With the safety belt tightly fastened across my hips, plastic tray table secured, backrest in its upright position and backpack stowed safely under the seat in front of me, nervousness tightened like a drawstring around my stomach.

I was the girl who had panic attacks during high school math exams, and here I was flying on Sept. 11, 2002.

I always get jittery during lift-off and landing, but after watching planes take off into dense smoke-like clouds and be swallowed instantly, I was more nervous than usual.

I was quite curious when I booked my return flight from Europe for Sept. 11, 2002. I expected dead airports, empty planes, a somber mood, and security guards in riot gear everywhere. I expected to be treated like a potential terrorist. I don't know, maybe I even expected something to go down.

The plane taxied towards the runway. I unfolded my free copy of the *International Herald Tribune* to keep my mind off the nagging statistic that most plane crashes happen within 10 minutes of take-off. Under the date (Sept. 11, 2002) the headline, "Attack on America: A Special Report," was highlighted in yellow, accompanied by a fuzzy photo of a plane with the morning sun glinting off its wings about to crash into the south tower of the World Trade Center.

I opened the paper and found more black-and-white photos of exploding planes and smoking twin towers. In an attempt to ease my discomfort, I opened the paper wider so my neighbours could see it more clearly. At least I might feel better if I wasn't the only one in panic mode. I concentrated on the exchange rates in the bottom left corner of the front page, but my head was still clogged with all the exchange rates I had encountered over the past two weeks.

In Sweden my friend told me to simply divide Swedish crowns by 6.5 to come up with the Canadian dollar amount. Yeah, simple for Paul the computer science student. But for me, the panic-attack math girl, dividing by 6.5 was way too complicated.

When I looked up, we were airborne and the 10-minute crash countdown had begun. A loud mechanical whining coming from below my feet was especially disconcerting. It took a few seconds to realize it was probably just the landing gear retracting. I took a gulp of water from my yellow Flash-5 bottle and studied the faded lettering I had carefully applied with my red Sharpie marker the night before the race: "WALTER #63."

There was still a bit of dirt caught under the plastic ring holding the lid to the neck of the bottle. I was bringing a lot more of that dirt home with me, especially on my cycling shoes and between the knobs of my bike tires. There was probably even some still under my eyelids.

That dirt came straight from the World Mountain Bike Championships in Kaprun, Austria, where the cross-country course had been so muddy, riders who skidded down grassy slopes had to claw back up to the trail. Mud had sprayed up under my glasses and into my eyes so that every time I blinked it felt like my eyelids were lined with sandpaper and I had double vision.

The seatbelt light went out, accompanied by hundreds of clicks and sighs from passengers undoing the constricting buckles. I didn't undo mine. The head steward always announces that, for safety reasons, it is recommended we keep our belts fastened throughout the flight. Good enough for me.

Flight attendants came by with round one of the complimentary beverages. The fellow across the aisle from me asked for Canadian Club.

"No sorry, we don't have that," said the flight attendant. "Is it a type of beer?"

He ordered a round of the alternative for his friends.

I handed my empty bottle to the flight attendant and asked her to fill it with water.

A small barrel-shaped woman in her sixties trundled over to speak to the German woman who was sitting beside me. The two women looked quite similar: same build, same mousy hair streaked with grey, same round wrinkled face. They were with a German tour group heading to Canada and they must have picked out their identical many-pocketed khaki vests and matching pants for the occasion – to brave the Canadian wilderness.

The visiting woman leaned over me, her bosom inches from my face, and gave my neighbour traveling tips.

"Take advantage of the free liquor," she said, her words laced with cognac. "Order a different meal from your husband so you can taste both."

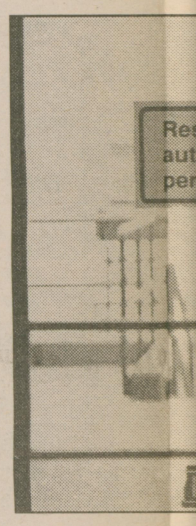
The woman beside me listened attentively and nodded while she sipped tonic water.

For dinner, we had a choice of vegetarian pasta or some sort of mysterious stew. I chose the pasta. In little vacuum-packed bags, I found a napkin, salt and pepper, a metal fork and spoon and a plastic knife.

The plastic knife replaced a metal one. Butter knives, even metal ones, aren't renowned for their sharpness or cutting abilities. In fact, a three-pronged fork is plenty sharper than the butter knife's single surface, which is not even fit to be called a blade.

The plastic knife reminded me of my 15-millimetre wrench. It now resides in the Regina airport in a long row of glass display cases filled with pocketknives, knitting needles, screwdrivers, nail files and other pointy things. The woman who had confiscated my wrench as I went through security seemed sympathetic – or maybe she was reveling in the fact that because of me, she was leading the employees' "Greatest Number of Seized Items" contest.

It annoyed me because I needed that wrench to put pedals on my bike (they have to be removed for shipping). But it wasn't pointy, and it really wasn't big or heavy enough to knock someone out. What did they think I'd do, get bored and start to undo bolts on the aircraft?



My friend Jenny's hex keys (blunt hexagonal sticks of metal about three inches long used for doing up bolts on her bike) were hardly threatening, considering the popularity of four-inch stiletto heels with women these days, but they were taken away from her. The security staff member at the Toronto airport wouldn't let my cousin board his plane out of New York unless the nail file on his nail clippers was snapped off and a friend's mother wasn't allowed to take her knitting needles on board.

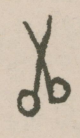
I started awake when the flight attendant asked what I wanted to drink.

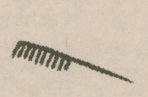
I handed her my empty bottle again. This time she handed it back along with a 1.5-litre bottle of water. "Can you do it yourself, please?"

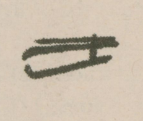
The German man at the window ordered another Warsteiner, which he promptly spilled. A group of passengers had started a little party in the middle aisle, ordering rounds of whiskey colas. The more whiskey colas they drank, the louder they conversed.

An elderly lady, obviously a little tipsy, stood up and tottered over to chat with the Canadian Club fan. In her hand she held a glinting metal comb, the kind with the five-inch-long pointy end to make a perfectly

photo by Jennifer Burden







roses

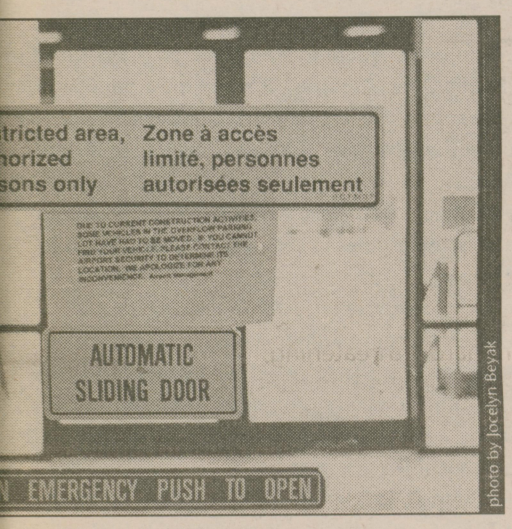
lying

straight part, with which she gesticulated wildly. I had to do a double take the first time I saw it.

Suddenly the plane hit a pocket of turbulence and the seatbelt sign went on. I forced the cold envelope of anxiety surrounding my chest away, distracting myself by counting down how long it would take for the comb to be confiscated. The lady, looking as if she would lose her balance at any moment and stab it into her friend's chest, refused to sit down, even when a flight attendant told her to.

There was no comment about the comb. It wasn't until the seatbelt light had gone off and someone had ordered another round, that she finally put away her comb and sat down.

I have considerable flying experience and have never seen that much drinking on board, ever. Attendants kept supplying the party in the middle row with whiskey



colas until they drank the 747 dry of whiskey. Then they moved on to something else and cola. I stuck to water.

I guess I was still in athlete mode even though I had officially begun my off-season. On the flight over, my coach had recommended I drink a litre an hour to stay hydrated because the air on planes is so dry. This was to avoid jet lag, which is attributed in part to dehydration. Alcohol, being a diuretic, would make it worse. And the more alcohol I drank, the more I would have to undo my seatbelt to go to the washroom.

After the flight attendants had wheeled their carts up the aisles on another beverage run, the pilot came on the PA. In memory of the tragedy a year before, he requested three minutes of silence. Most of the passengers ignored it and kept drinking and chatting. I wanted to, but I forgot after a minute and a half and continued reading my novel.

By the time the in-flight movie came on, I had finished the book and was craving a distraction. The film, *Spider-Man*, featured battles between good and evil on the streets of New York. Spider-Man saved the day against the backdrop of a gently undulating American flag. I fell asleep to the hit pop song "Hero" playing during the credits.

The chief steward's voice startled me.

"Please fasten your safety belts."

Mine was already fastened, of course. We were starting our descent into Vancouver, he said. To illustrate, the screen at the front showed a digital map of Northern Canada with our little white plane dancing across it. The altitude, shown on an alternating blue screen was, indeed, starting to decrease steadily. I dozed off again.

I sat up.

A rumbling whine from the bowels of the plane shook the floor.

Then I remembered the landing gear and started my 10-minute countdown.

We were so close to the runway I could feel it. I waited for the thud that would signal our connection with the ground – it always came later than I expected, creating an awful suspense in my taut body. And when we did hit the ground, there was still the issue of stopping. A fully loaded 747 must need some hefty brakes and ours were vibrating and moaning.

Please stop, please stop, I repeated silently. The cabin burst into applause. I didn't join them. The pilot did his job, which was to land safely. Applause made it seem like there was a good chance he wouldn't.

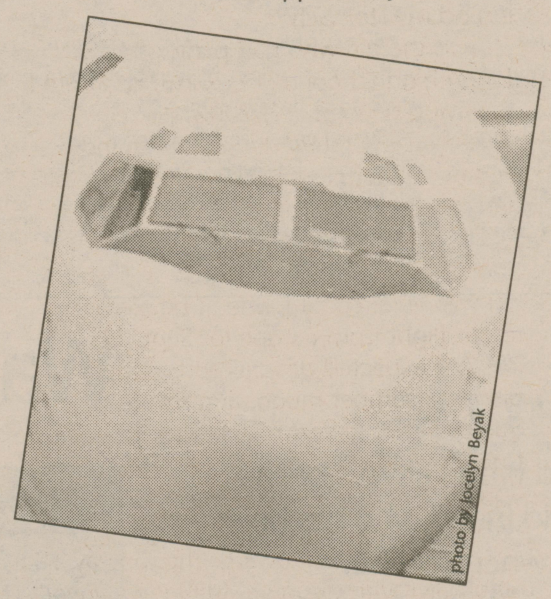
I smiled weakly at the flight attendants at the exit and stepped off.

I expected to spend a long time at customs because I declared on my form that I was bringing dairy products into the country. Last time my mother came home from Switzerland, she hadn't declared her cheese and a search dog found her out. As a result, the customs officer took away her delicious tête de moine and Appenzeller cheeses. "Well, I hope you'll enjoy them," she told him, but he threw them in the garbage. When I neared the customs booths, the same tingle ran through my body as when I see a police officer. I feel instantly guilty and afraid of being found out, even though I've done nothing wrong. The customs officer, however, smiled, looked at my form and asked what I was bringing back. "Just some Swiss cheese," I said, "and a watch."

"Not a $10,000 Rolex?" he asked.

"No," I laughed unnaturally. "Just a Swatch." And that was that.

But it wasn't over yet. Customs officers patrolled the baggage claim area and I was sure that when my suitcase, heavy with cheese, tumbled off the conveyer, a German shepherd would run up and bark. One of the officers, a short guy with a built upper body,



brusquely asked the fellow, who looked stereotypically Middle Eastern, behind me for his documents. "What are you bringing back, sir?" he asked.

"Nothing," replied the fellow, shaking his head.

"You're not bringing any food home are you? No special food for your family?" He spent several minutes with his interrogation before turning to me.

"How are you today, ma'am?"

"Fine thanks, and you?"

"May I – Uh, fine thanks – Uh, may I see your passport and customs card? Where are you coming from?"

"Frankfurt. Actually, it was just a connecting flight in Frankfurt. I actually started in Zurich," I bumbled, looking around for a frisky German shepherd.

"What was the purpose of your trip?"

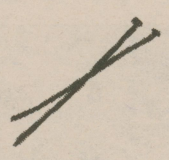
"Actually," I said, knowing I had him, "I was at the World Championships for mountain biking."

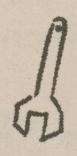
"Really." His glance searched my luggage for evidence and came to rest on my water bottle. "And how did you do?"

"Uh, 53rd," I said.

"I used to power lift for Canada and I never placed competitively," he reassured me. "But it was a good experience."

Safely buckled into the front passenger seat, my near-sighted mother at the wheel, my feet began to tap restlessly as I started a countdown that would last the entire hour-long drive home.





The Butt of his own jokes: Brent knows how to live it up

photo provided

by Mark Samcoe

Victoria's gut is about to get busted. For comedian Brent Butt, it might be his liver.

On Oct. 15, the Just For Laughs Comedy Tour, hosted by Harland Williams, of *Half Baked*/"I'm somebody's bitch" fame, grabs the mic at the McPherson Playhouse.

It's the first stop of the tour, which hits 16 Canadian cities and two in the United States in less than a month. Emo Phillips, Supergirly, Mike Wilmot, and Butt are among the comics who'll be cracking up the crowd.

"Oh no, my liver." That was Butt's first thought when he heard Wilmot was to be on the tour. Butt's worked before with Wilmot and Williams. He's also worked audiences at the Tally-Ho and the Comedy Cellar.

Hailing from Tisdale, Saskatchewan, Butt has called Vancouver home for the last nine years. "I was a townie," says Butt of his small-town upbringing, which he's incorporated into his conversational style of stand-up. "I never understood farming. I still don't."

Butt, who's been doing comedy since 1988, describes his entrance into stand-up as "pretty straightforward." Following gigs at an amateur club in Saskatoon, his career fast-tracked. Since then, he's toured Canada and, most recently, Singapore. A Gemini award nominee and CBC progam host, Butt received the award for Best Male Stand-Up at the 2001 Canadian Comedy Awards. He's also attracted network attention for a television series he's developing.

Butt says his first stand-up gig still ranks as one of his best. "It's been 14 years of trying to recapture the magic," he says.

Turned on to stand-up after watching comedians on television, Butt was 12 when he told his mother of his desire to crack jokes for a living. "It just made sense to me," he says. "I knew it was what I was supposed to do."

Doubt, a factor in Butt's early days, is now a non-issue. "There's these moments just starting out," he says, "you wonder what the hell you're doing living in crappy motels, in the booking agent's basement."

Where do his jokes come from? "I just carry a pen and notepad around and I write things down," Butt says. "There are times when notes are few and far-between. I never worry too much. It's like an athlete going in a slump." If his swing's off, he relies on old material. "Or I just start drinking and then there's inspiration."

Butt estimates that if he delivered all of his material it would be a five hour routine. He once did stand-up for two-and-a-half hours in Whitehorse. "It was great," he says. "I was only booked for 45 minutes. The crowd kept sending me drinks. It's Whitehorse. Where else are you going to go?"

Butt says he doesn't follow a pre-set routine. He plans what jokes he'll open with, and based on the first few minutes on-stage - the audience reaction and his own sense - he chooses what jokes to tell. "It keeps me fresh," he says. "[Otherwise] It can get stale, and you go on auto-pilot."

He's adept with hecklers. "They're pretty easy to deal with," he says. "Smart people don't heckle. [Hecklers] are usually drunk. It's pretty easy to deal with a drunk, stupid person."

Butt also seems unaffected by the industry's negative aspects. "There's a lot of weaseling going on," he says, referring to booking agents. "But no matter what job you have, there's someone being weasely."

Although Butt plans to make a push for success south of the border, he's cautiously optimistic.

"They've had their fill of Canadians," he says. "In the business there's a lot of anti-Canadian sentiment. It's like being upset because we make cars up here."

In retrospect, Butt says he's had "a hell of a good time these past 14 years. I fully expected to be jaded by now, but I'm having too good a time."

Butt's success appears to be endless, with the current tour and a television series he's developing garnering network interest.

"I might quit when I'm 80," he says. "Like Phyllis Diller."

the martlet
it's like an old friend who's always been there for you. an old friend who has been willing to help out when you have problems. and you just sit there, not reciprocating. damn you! come help out!
sub b011

Wailing in Italian: *La Bohème*

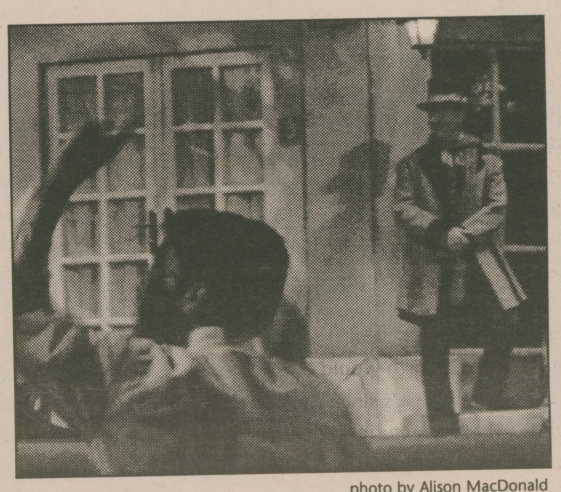


photo by Alison MacDonald

Picturesque vignettes in *La Bohème*

by Katrina Sark

As autumn approaches and yellow leaves cover the streets of Victoria, local theatres begin to open their doors. The new season at the Royal Theatre opens with *La Bohème*, one of the world's most celebrated operas.

Italian composer Giacomo Puccini, known for his highly emotional melodies and orchestral brilliance, creates a tale of youth and tragic love, set in mid 19th-century Paris, where hopes and jealousies come to life under the first snowflakes.

First performed in 1896, *La Bohème* is a spectacle of musical genius.

"There is no better opera to start a season," says David Devan of Pacific Opera Victoria. "It is the most popular of all operas because it delivers on every front. Every expectation you might have of opera is met, even if this is your first time."

The notoriety of *La Bohème*, which has been produced in Victoria only three times in the past 24 years, lies in its emotional impact.

"The music rips your heart out," Devan says. "*La Bohème* is different from traditional operas. There are no kings and queens. It is the story of four people, who are very real because everybody can relate on an emotional level. Everyone was young and in love."

Director Francois Racine agrees.

"I want to stage this opera because it moves my heart every time I see it," he says. "I get this lump of tied-up emotions in my throat, my tears melt into salty little pearls."

Producers had no trouble finding performers. The cast combines both homegrown and imported talents, while the chorus is comprised solely of locals.

There were some difficulties, however, in making the stage appear realistic.

Set designer Paul Dishaw went as far as France for inspiration in recreating a Parisian cityscape on the stage.

"In the set we were striving for honesty and realism. The Paris street scene is recreated in real scale, with real size buildings and real windows," says Devan. "All colours are of a warm colour palette, and we also have new lighting instruments to create the mood."

There are also over 100 costumes in the show, from the same palette, most of which were ordered from a company in Toronto.

Most interpretations of the opera are set around 1890 in a post-Industrial Revolution atmosphere, says Devan, but "we decided to stay true to Puccini's intentions and set it in the 1840s."

La Bohème has had a profound effect on many. It has influenced contemporary works like the film *Moonstruck* and the Broadway hit *RENT*.

Pacific Opera's production of *La Bohème* promises to enthrall. "The overall effect will be great emotional intensity," Devan says.

"We'll feel what it's like to fall in love. If we do our job right, everyone in the audience will become, and experience the same as, the young couple Mimi and Rodolfo. Fourteen hundred people will be bawling their eyes out."

La Bohème *runs Oct. 10 to 19 at the Royal Theatre.*

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OrganiCanadianica: It's the New Deal yo...

by Jonathan Rothman

Nobody seems to like the unique musical genre name I invented for Toronto's the New Deal - OrganiCanadianica. You hate it too? Fine, but don't take it out on the band.

Dan Kurtz (bass), Jamie Shields (keys) and Darren Shearer (drums and beatbox) are the New Deal (TND), a trio of live musicians playing what they've dubbed "Live Progressive Breakbeat House." Because their music is based on improvisations, TND never really play the same thing twice. Whatever you want to call it, it works.

The group has gained international reknown and has shared stages with Moby, Herbie Hancock, and the Chemical Brothers. Recently, I had the chance to speak with TND drummer and beatbox scientician Darren Shearer via email after their kickoff show in Montreal.

I congratulated TND on winning an Urban Music Association of Canada (UMAC) X-Posure Award for Best Electronic Recording in Toronto.

"I think the appeal is [quite simply] the groove element of what we do," Shearer says. "Urban music has always been created around groove and feel. A lot of the time house, break-beat, and drum and bass are just re-vamped hip hop and disco."

TND has found favour with diverse audiences, at jazz, blues and roots festivals, rock concerts, jam-band shows and outdoor raves.

"Whether it's playing with Herbie, djs or Sloan, I think everyone finds something to latch on to, and get their boogie on," Shearer says.

I asked TND about their improvisational set list (which includes a repertoire of head fakes and hand signals to signify changes). Shearer exposed TND's secret onstage codes.

"There's always new hand signals developing. We just came up with one that pretty much signifies 'let's get the #@!# out of here!' when we want to change progressions," says Shearer.

Anyone who has seen them live (for example, last February at Lucky Bar – didn't I see you there?) knows TND have a range of sounds wider than most djs' record crates, and the mix differs with each performance.

"I think people that like to rock out identify with the fact that we're playing real instruments and are truly there to put on a good show and get as many people off as possible," says Shearer.

"We will have played a lot of shows by the time we reach Vic," he says, "If anyone out there is a massage therapist ..."

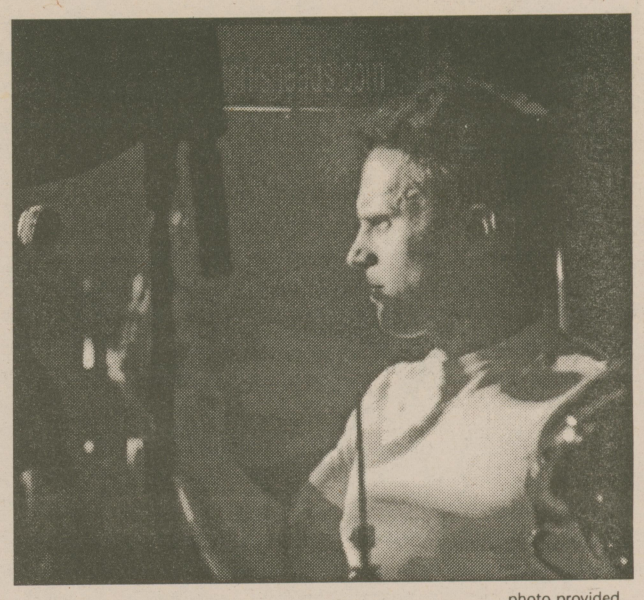


photo provided

Darren Shearer of Toronto's New Deal lays out some infectious beats that will get you movin'. 100 per cent. Guaranteed.

Blasting peacocks: Why Terry Glavin isn't Raffi

by Holly Pattison and John Thompson

Terry Glavin describes himself as the polar opposite of Raffi. Maybe "David Suzuki meets Hunter S. Thompson" would be a better fit for the B.C. writer, whose combination of environmental consciousness, high-powered weaponry and humour held an audience rapt at UVic two weeks ago.

The award-winning author, critic and journalist read from *The Eye & the Thicket*, a series of natural history essays. Edited by Sean Virgo, the book features essays from some of Canada's most distinguished writers, naturalists, philosophers, and poets, including Patrick Lane, Don McKay, Barry Callaghan, and Glavin himself.

Glavin says his essays in *The Eye & the Thicket* explore the relationship between people and animals and their impact on each other. Whether tracing the path of salmon through the ocean and up-river, or musing aloud about silencing a noisy peacock with his shotgun, Glavin manages to stay loyal to the conservation cause he's sworn allegiance to without being, well, precious.

Storytelling is blended with fact, landscape and astute observation. For instance, after following spawning salmon to the base of a hydro-electric dam, Glavin carefully catalogues the cost of building a fish-ladder for them, piece by piece. Just as carefully, he adds that the cost of enough explosives needed to blow up the dam would be even less.

His wry, militaristic persona extends into daydreams of blasting a peacock—the bird that sets him aside from children's performer Raffi, who Glavin says wrote a "nice little song" about the bird.

Despite his angry visions, and elaborate detail regarding what kind of firearm would be appropriate, Glavin admits he's since grown fond of the bird. "One showed up in my bedroom last week," he says, without further explanation.

If there's one thing Glavin's mad-guy personae does, it is to break free from established templates for environmental writing. Traditionally, conservation writing portrays nature without resilience and employs apocalyptic, "going-to-hell-in-a-handcart" arguments, he says.

Glavin has been described as a nature writer, an environmental writer, and a First Nations writer. He says all these titles have come as a surprise to him, as he is reluctant to be classified.

In Glavin's writing, landscape is delineated by native myth as much as by nearby towns. The only way we can know landscape is through narrative, Glavin argues. "Writers have a duty to be mindful of landscape as narrative, and to be loyal to landscape in that way," he says. "We need to describe not just the science of landscape, but also its creation.

"The only way of understanding is through the human imagination," says Glavin. "We have to start telling more stories.

"The only place imagination has been active is in First Nations stories," he says. "It's not inherently better, it's just what is there."

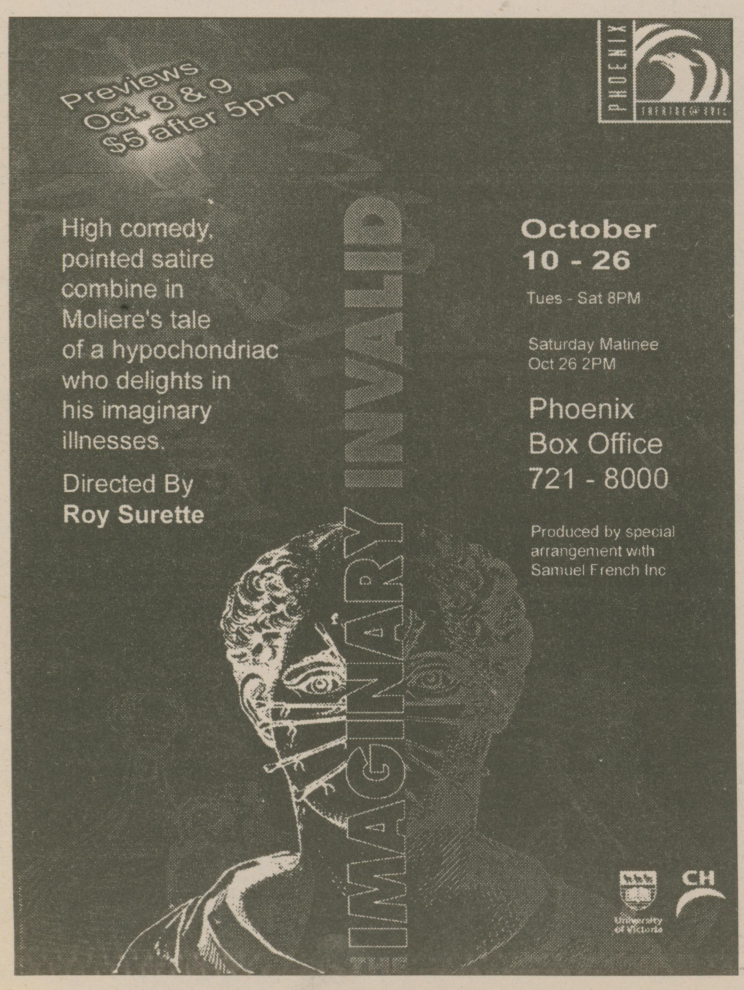
After serving 15 years at *the Vancouver Sun* as a senior reporter, Glavin grew disenchanted with newsroom politics and went on to write books like *This Ragged Place* and columns for the *Georgia Strait*. He warns against taking shortcuts when researching stories, and argues this practice has corroded today's mass media.

"Most journalism has become an exercise in lying," says Glavin. "There's a narrowing of discourse. Conventional forms of media are on the way out."

He advises, "Don't read the papers to find out what's happening. Read papers to find out what people want you to think is happening. Make your own media."

Glavin's other advice to writers: report what you observe. Worry less if it fits into standard paradigms.

Respect and acknowledge elders. And don't worry about mistakes. "To Hell with mistakes."



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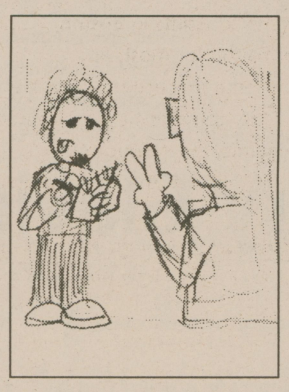
on the spot

Heart on sleeve worn by Mark Samcoe
Illustrations by Jeffrey Weston

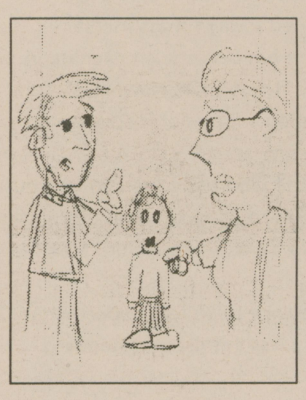
So I met her at the bar and she gave me her number and I called her and we went out and it was good and I called her two days later, because I didn't want to be overeager, and she never called back. What do I do?

Do you hear that? It's my heart. And it's broken.

Sharmeen Khan
Station Manager, CFUV



S: What base did you go?
M: I've never understood how the bases work.
S: First base is just kissing, touching with clothes on. Second base is heavier kissing, shirts off, a lot more intimate touching. Third base, now this is where it gets a little subjective, but it's like doing everything but having sex.
M: Okay, so, first base.



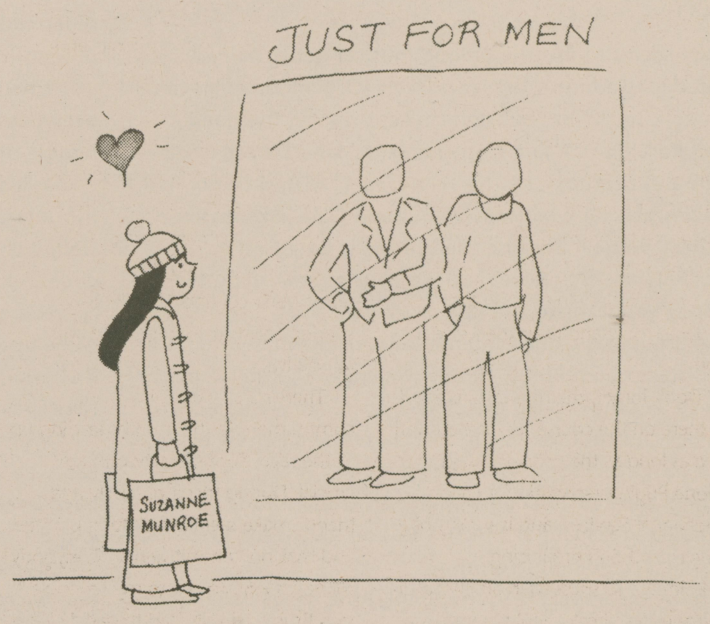
Adam Rudder
History Graduate

A: What's going on?
S: Mark's stalking some girl.
A: (*pause*) I would call her and just ask her where she's at.
S: Like, "Look, you totally teased me with that first base shit."
[*crowd rips up in laughter and applause*]
S: "I want to know when second's happening."

A: Tell her how you feel.
M: On a date you don't want to reveal too much of yourself, I thought.
A: Why not? I'd lay it all out on the table.
M: I don't want to come on too strong, though.
A: But then you're not giving her the choice.
S: See, Adam's not the really perfect guy to ask for date advice.
A: Yeah, but at least I know where I stand after a first date.
S: Yeah, you stand *alone*.

Sexless in the city

by Suzanne Munroe



I am in a funky bargain store eyeing some potential purchases. I find a sandblasted denim skirt with an asymmetrical fringed hem that's perfect for me. Perfect, since I currently feel the need to dress like a rock star – edgy, daring, confrontational.

Standing at the till, I inquire about the return policy and gingerly store the receipt in my wallet in case this buy has dipped into my rent fund. Unsatisfied, I peek into another shop and end up buying an accessory and a pair of pants.

Do I thrive on living on the edge (of bankruptcy)? No, I'm still reeling from a fall off another precipice: a break-up. And what I'm acting on, you see, is the fundamental need for retail therapy. You can find this need in Maslow's hierarchy between food and shelter. Shopping, you see, is the currency of happiness for single women.

It is now four months after the scene in the shopping mall. The exhilaration I felt bringing home that jean skirt and pairing it with my black boots has long since faded. I've only worn it once. I never go out and I am no rock star, for God's sake.

To add insult to injury, last Christmas one of my close friends got engaged and another got married. At the wedding reception, I found myself surrounded by couples whose female counterparts pinkie-swore that they would all start trying to get pregnant in a year.

I deadpanned that I was actually trying now. Nobody laughed, either because they thought I was serious or because they felt sorry for me.

The problem, I believe, is geography. Or demographics. Actually it is that I have relocated myself to a place whose demographics do not favour my love life.

Victoria, according to legend and/or cliché, is a city for the newly-wed and the nearly-dead. I fear by staying here I may bypass the former category completely and land in the latter, alone and wrinkled. Judging from my social calendar, one might conclude this has already happened. In my defense, however, I work in a field where men are the minority and where young eligible men are so rare their presence is as dubious and fabled as the Loch Ness monster.

Having said this, it is only fair that if the city is so destitute of eligible bachelors, it should then offer excellent shopping. Alas, it does not, which is just as well because my bank account is about as empty as my love life.

So what's a lonely girl to do in the meantime?

How 'bout living *la vida loca* with her close circle of equally unattached girlfriends à la *Sex and the City*? Well, thanks to the aforementioned engagement and marriage, the closest I get to *Sex and the City* is watching it on TV while carving my silhouette into the couch. Good thing it's on on the weekend so I can be sure to catch it. And good thing I have a baby or wedding shower to go to every month so I get out from time to time.

You can imagine how I live for stags.

And I can always watch that video I got for Christmas: *Bridget Jones's Diary*. I wish I was lying for the sake of embellishment but I'm not. In fact, as painful as it is to admit, it is playing on my TV as I write this article – on a Saturday night.

After all my kibitzing you'd think my morale would be gone. Well, it's not. Okay, it's a little low, but I'm not giving up. Besides, this is an excellent opportunity to pursue some new hobbies. After all, this may be the last time in my life where I have this much time to focus on myself (Oh dear God, please let it be).

Here's a list off the top of my head:

1. Get a second job, preferably one in a field dominated by young, virile men. Good ones would be: firefighting, modeling, and personal training.

This hobby would be killing two birds with one stone; I would be able to shop more and meet new people. It would also entail writing resumes and cover letters, researching job options, networking... on second thought, never mind.

2. Volunteer. I've always been interested in giving back to the community and helping people with their problems. Wait a second, wasn't this supposed to be about me?

3. Macramé!

4. Write a book. This would be much easier if I had a topic. Or some interesting life experience to draw from. Or if I didn't have the three-tier cable package (70 channels: I highly recommend it to all shut-ins, recluses, and social rejects).

I could write an excellent novel about a single woman stumbling through the dating wilderness. I even have a title for it already – *Bridget Jones's Diary*!

5. Take a class. This would require more income. See item number one.

6. Get in shape – join the gym, go for regular walks, maybe even take up running.

7. Deep-clean my apartment, taking on such long-neglected chores as: cleaning and scouring out the fridge, organizing the closets, vacuuming.

8. Just kidding about the last two items. Laughter really is the best medicine!

Maybe I will simply go window-shopping. Just browse for the sake of browsing.

Enjoy the ride, live my life.

And eventually I just might look across the room to find just what I've been looking for all my life in the right size, at the right price, a perfect compliment to my assets. Not a fad, but a durable classic.

I think it's out there. I just gotta keep looking.

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Royal Victoria Marathon: a personal growth-op

by Andrew Frizzell

Early on the morning of Oct. 13, the 23rd annual Royal Victoria Marathon will provide thousands of runners with a venue for self-discovery.

This year marks a departure from the traditionally heavy focus on finish times and competitive rankings. The winners won't overshadow the importance of the participants and the experience they glean.

"Don't forget, the non-elite runner is out there on the course for [sometimes] twice as long as the winners," says Winona Pugh, who works for UVic Recreational Services, and is a member of the marathon's organizing committee. "To succeed in an effort this enormous requires careful training and rearranging priorities. Especially when athletics may not be a person's strong suit to begin with." Pugh says there has been an increase in registration numbers within the non-competitive group, those at the back of the pack.

For 52-year-old Monika Brusso, preparation for the marathon has been fulfilling, largely due to support from others. "Words like 'race' and 'competition' were very intimidating," she says. "It took a while to find a training group that had the supportive feel I was looking for. Without them I might not have continued to push myself."

Pugh cites the attraction of intellectual, emotional and physical challenges as a reason for increased interest. "We live in a modern urban environment where we need to identify the activities that challenge us and pursue them," she says. "We have a need to learn about our limits and capabilities in order to understand ourselves."

Because a marathon can be intimidating, preparation is key. "In managing confidence issues, the fear of failure is always there," Pugh says. "But if you work hard and do your homework, confidence will grow spontaneously from repetition and familiarity."

There's a substantial personal commitment in the months leading up to the race. Support networks are crucial. During training, family and friends make sacrifices, shifting priorities and making commitments. "Everybody's made an adjustment to my schedule," says Brusso. "I only had to decide 'I am a runner' and the lifestyle changes followed on their own. But the environment around me was incredible."

Some of the motivation for today's marathoners also comes from the organizers' choice of health-oriented charity groups, like the Greater Victoria Hospitals Foundation, Runners of Compassion, and Kidsport. "When you're running for a cause, for other people's benefit, you tend to be capable of even greater feats," she says. "The fears and self-doubt and even the pain of aching feet seem to lessen in that context."

Register to run or volunteer at royalvictoriamarathon.com and visit the West Coast Expo and Running Seminars on October 11 and 12 at the Conference Centre, 720 Douglas St.

Rowers won't stop till they get enough

by Mark Samcoe

photo provided

Watch and learn crazy from the Vikes mixed eights this Saturday at Elk Lake.

It's been said that records were made to be broken.

In the case of vinyl, look no further than the Disco Demolition at Comiskey Park in 1979. Impatient fans, who brought their Gloria Gaynor LPs to be blown up in a giant dumpster, stormed the field to trash both the records and the turf.

The Vikes rowing teams, on the other hand, have a different approach to records.

On Oct. 12, the Vikes will attempt to set a Canadian record for most kilometres rowed by an eight in one consecutive 12-hour period. The row-a-thon is a fundraiser for a trip to the Head of the Charles in Boston at month's end.

The Massachusetts regatta is the biggest and, according to Vikes rower Emily Poupart, most prestigious in North America. International teams will be present, as well as several from other Canadian universities.

"We're taking on the Ivy League," says Poupart.

Beginning at 6 a.m. this Saturday, the Vikes will be rowing up an inferno on Elk Lake, switching seats with teammates every hour. Their goal is to row more than 150 km.

"Hopefully the weather will cooperate," says Poupart, a masters student studying conflict analysis and dispute resolution.

Poupart predicts it will be similar to their dryland training "hour of power" on the ergs.

"We go as hard as we can for an hour," she says.

Nineteen Vikes rowers plan to race as mixed eights in Boston, an odd formation for most, and they plan to get some practice this weekend.

"It's going to be an interesting dynamic," says Poupart.

In the past, the Vikes haven't been able to attend the regatta because of inadequate funding. This year they're taking matters into their own hands, or oars.

"We're hoping to be able to go every year," says Poupart, citing their ability to garner an NCAA ranking as a distinct advantage to competing.

The trip will cost each Vikes rower between $1200 and $1500. And while they can take their winning ways with them - a combined nine national championships – their boats will have to stay. In Beantown, they'll be renting.

"We're hoping to get some good boats," Poupart says. "It's going to be a question of adapting to it."

So far, Poupart and others have been soliciting pledges from family and friends. Also, a silent auction is taking place online.

"Everyone's trying to get people interested in the sport to come out and support it," says Poupart.

To pledge, call 370-1070 or e-mail vikees12hrowathon@hotmail.com. Place bids at ww.westcoastrowing.com/rowathon/auction_items.html

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Info Session for UVic Students
Tuesday October 15, 2002
7:30 pm – 9:00 pm
David Strong Bldg. Room C130
Visit: www.redapplepartners.com/att

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Help us plan our future!

The University of Victoria is continuing to consult on a Draft Campus Plan to guide the physical development of our campus. B.C.'s youth population will grow in the next 10 years and so will the demand for university education. In order to manage and accommodate this growth, while respecting the natural environment, we are seeking the advice of the local communities we serve.

Two public meetings held in the spring provided much valuable feedback. Two more information open houses in October will give Greater Victoria residents and the campus community an opportunity to provide comments and suggestions on the Draft Campus Plan. Those interested in engaging in more in-depth feedback may also choose one of three workshops in November.

Open Houses – Drop-in
Saturday, October 19
11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Cadboro Commons
Conference Centre

Monday, October 28
12:00 to 8:00 p.m.
Student Union Building

Workshops – Pre-Register
Thursday, November 14
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Monday, November 18
12:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Saturday, November 23
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The November workshops provide an opportunity to discuss the Draft Campus Plan in detail. Small group sessions are scheduled to encourage collaborative discussion. To pre-register or for more information, click on "Consultation Process" at www.uvic.ca/draftcampusplan or call CitySpaces Consulting, which is coordinating these events, at 383-0304.

Copies of the Draft Campus Plan are available at www.uvic.ca/draftcampusplan and at campus and Greater Victoria public libraries, the Oak Bay and Saanich municipal halls or by calling UVic's Facilities Management department at 721-7591.

University of Victoria

And grace, too: McLetchie talks turkey

by Iain McLetchie

On this weekend of thanks, one has to look no further than the sports world to find specific events and actions for which to be thankful. Within the pages of daily papers, throughout numerous updates on the tube, and in the URL depths of the Internet, we see a piece of ourselves in sports and athletics. Before we tuck into the turkey, let us give thanks.

Let us give thanks for Randy Moss. Without this star Minnesota Vikings receiver's boneheaded actions, we wouldn't realize just how normal most of us are. In one week, Moss dragged a Minneapolis traffic cop one block (after she tried to stop him and his SUV from going through a construction zone), dropped four easy touchdown passes in a must-win game against Seattle (plummeting the hapless Vikings to 0-4, their worst start in decades), and was arrested for marijuana possession. I guess he needed something to dull the pain.

Let us give thanks for playoffs, the major league baseball variety. Whoever said that the regular season is merely practice for the "real" season wasn't lying. Diamondbacks pitchers Curt Schilling and Randy Johnson blew through the regular season, winning 47 games and losing only 12 between them. The St. Louis Cardinals rocked Johnson in game one, and Schilling received no run support in game two. Needless to say, the D-backs lost both matches and the series.

Let us give thanks for small-market teams. The Anaheim Angels scored 31 runs in four games, manhandling the New York Yankees (famed for their $171 million payroll) in the process. Meanwhile, the Minnesota Twins, who were slated for contraction in the off-season, continued their miracle season, defeating the Oakland A's, another small-market team, in a fifth-game nail-biter. Did you know the Twinkies are 5-0 all-time in post-season series? Yup, every time they've reached the playoffs, they've won it all - 1987 and 1991. Look out, Anaheim.

Let us give thanks for the NHL. Another long, seemingly endless season is nigh upon us, and once again big bucks seem to be spoiling the gravy. Jarome Iginla, who led the league in scoring last year for a fairly shoddy Calgary squad, was rewarded for his efforts with a two-year deal worth $13 million. Sure enough, he spent the summer making loads of public appearances, and had a spread in GQ. And, sure enough, teammates have questioned his desire and focus for this season.

Let us give thanks for the Notre Dame Fighting Irish. The Irish are 5-0 under new coach Tyrone Willingham, and are ranked ninth in the latest AP poll. This, of course, is fantastic for sportswriters the world over, as the phrase "the luck of the Irish" can now be used ad nauseum. Of course, you won't catch me using it, by hook, crook or the luck of the Irish.

Let us give thanks for the CFL and all the.... Oh, never mind.

Let us give thanks for university sports in Canada, and for high school sports in Canada, and for minor league hockey, and for little league baseball, and... you get the point.

Let us give thanks for all the great things we have and love, but never seem to notice. Let us give thanks for freedom - of speech, of thought, of love. Of everything. Let us give thanks for life, and let us take full advantage of it.

The state of Vikes soccer

by Mark Samcoe

Women's Soccer

It was a tough weekend for the Vikes women's soccer team, as they suffered their first defeat of the season. The top-ranked UBC Thunderbirds shut them down three-nil, Saturday on the mainland.

"We didn't deserve to win," said Head Coach Tracy David.

The Vikes record now stands at 5-1-3, good for third spot in Canada West – one point behind Calgary – with a game in hand.

"We have to start believing in ourselves," David said.

As the season dwindles, the games won't get easier. This coming weekend 's home match against Trinity Western is a must-win.

"We are good enough to achieve a playoff spot, but we must play consistently better," David said.

The Vikes are currently in the hunt for one of only two remaining playoff spots, as UBC and Can West tournament hosts Trinity Western have already claimed entry.

"[UBC] doesn't have any weakness," David says. "No one's going to catch them."

That leaves UVic to battle with Alberta and Calgary.

"Every point for us is critical," David said. "If we want to control our own destiny we have to win games."

Men's Soccer

The men's squad remains undefeated after a victory Saturday over the Trinity Western Spartans, and a tie Sunday with the UBC Thunderbirds.

Coach Bruce Wilson deemed it "a very successful weekend against two very tough B.C. schools."

Trinity Western, an underrated team in Wilson's opinion, took UVic to the limit Saturday night and left the squad with little juice for the game against UBC.

"Our backfield and keeper kept us in the game," said Wilson.

In order for the Vikes to build on their strengths, Wilson cites a need for increased confidence in substitute players.

"We have to do a lot more with our first year kids," Wilson said. "We're relying on 12, 13 people."

Thanksgiving weekend offers another test with Trinity Western. This time at Centennial Stadium.

"Playing in our home confines is a benefit to us," Wilson said.

The Vikes record now stands at 5-0-2, good for second spot in Canada West, holding a game in hand against the conference-leading Golden Bears.

"Alberta is definitely the team to beat," says Wilson, marveling at the high degree of competition in Canada West. "It's by far the most competitive league I can remember in 15 years."

This week in sports

Home

Men's and Women's Basketball
Oct. 11 Alumni - Exhibition
Men's and Women's Soccer
Oct. 12 vs. Trinity Western
Men's and Women's Cross Country
Oct. 12 New Balance Invitational @ Beacon Hill
Men's and Women's Rowing
Oct. 12 Row-a-thon @ Elk Lake

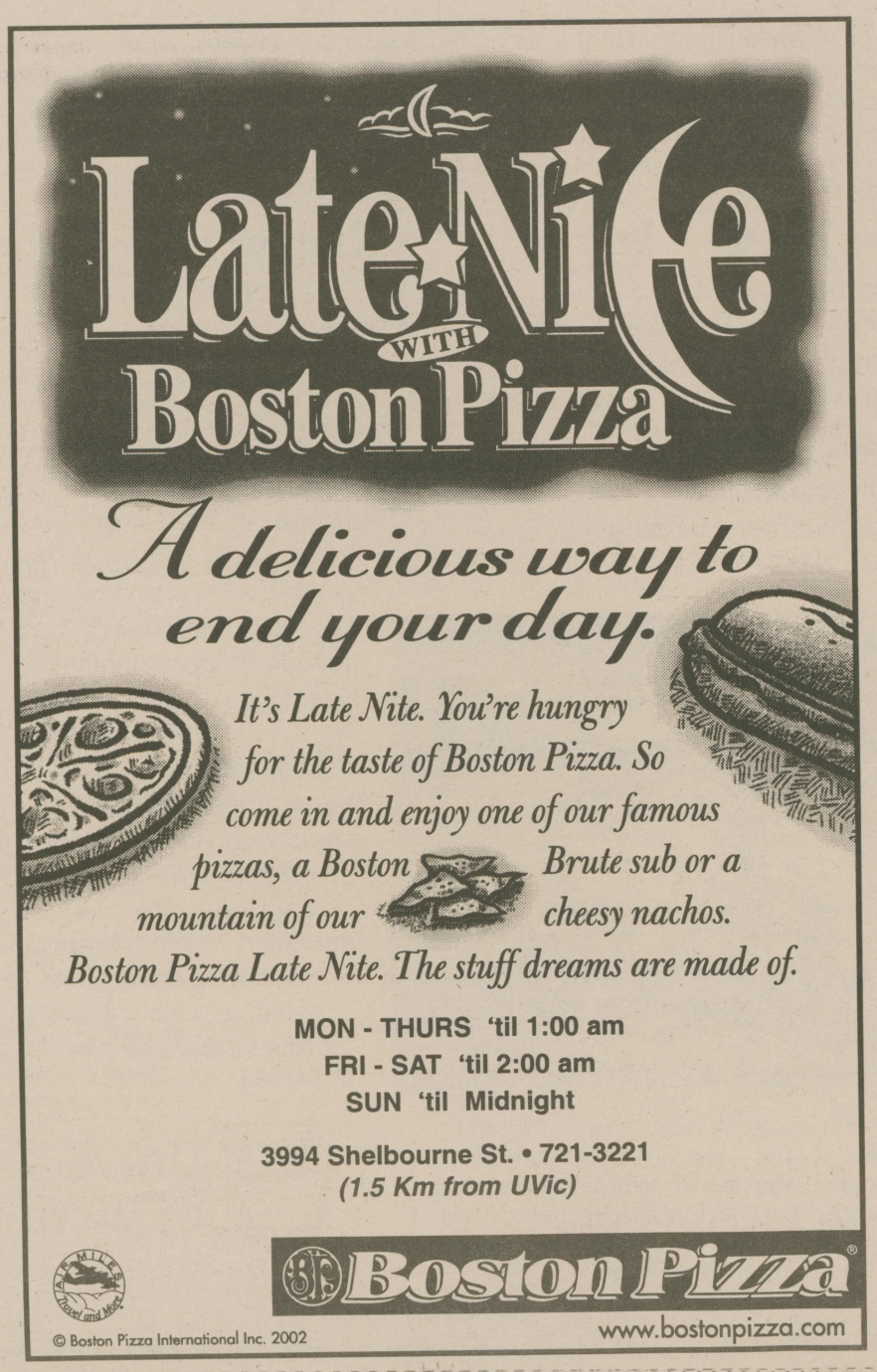
Away

Men's and Women's Rowing
Oct. 12 Freshmen Classic @ Vancouver
Oct. 13 Deep Cove Classic @ Vancouver

visit www.uvic.ca/vikes for (good) times

photo by Iain McLetchie

A member of the Vikes rugby team keeps it like a secret against Meraloma.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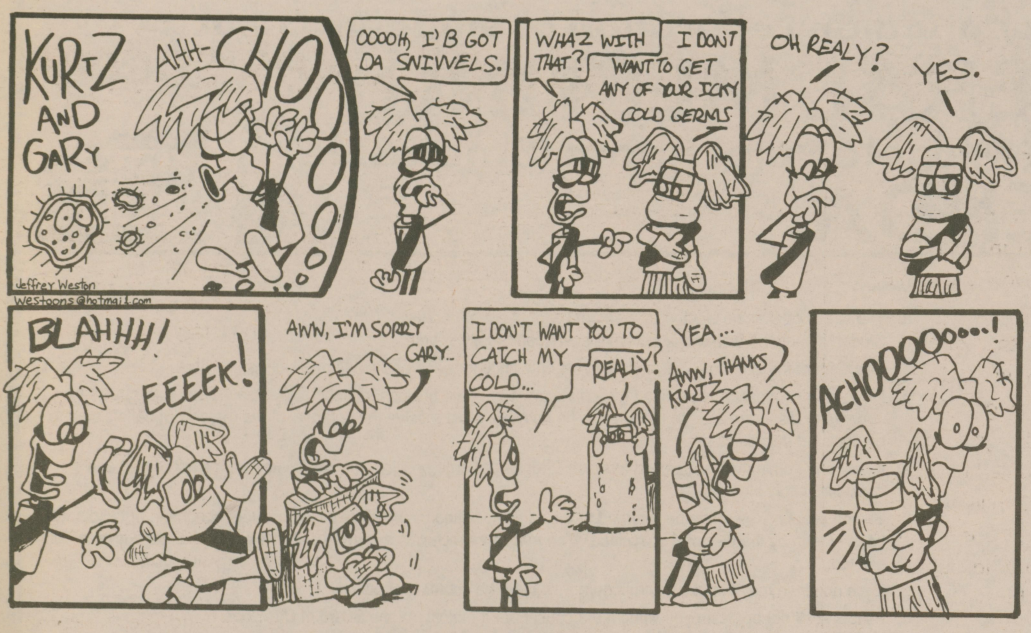
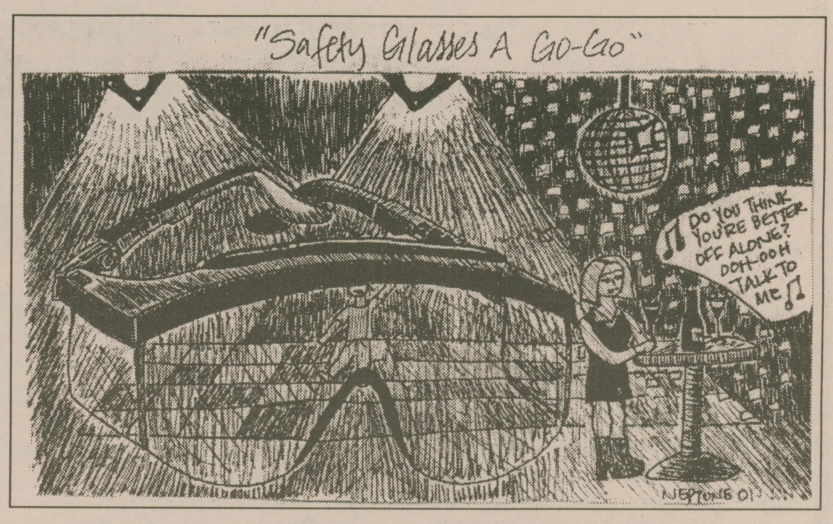
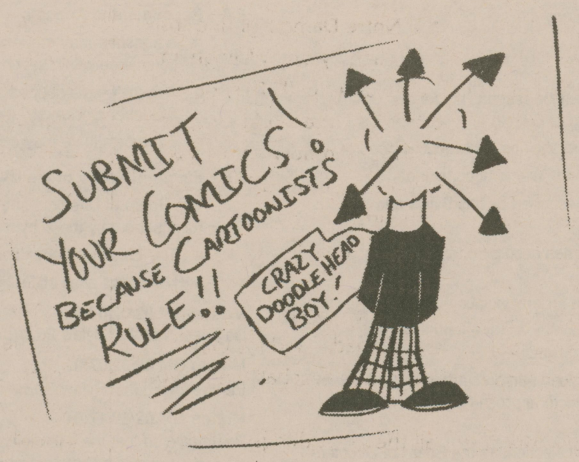
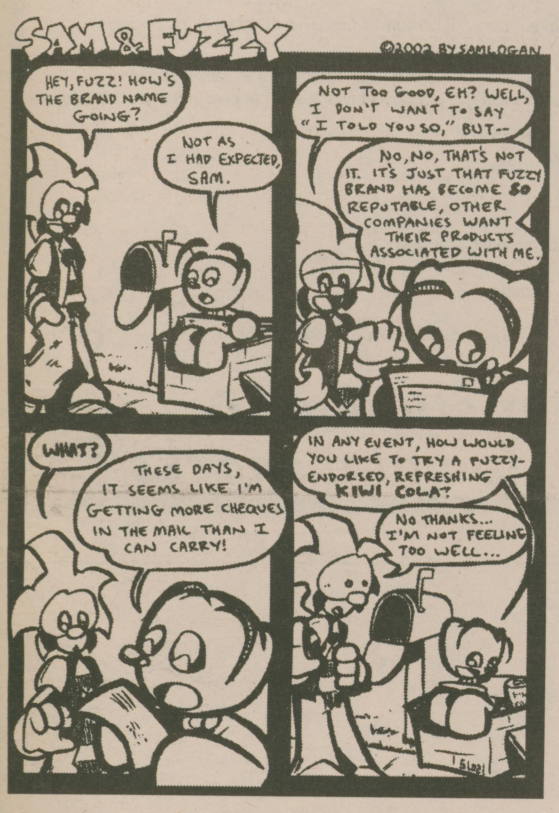
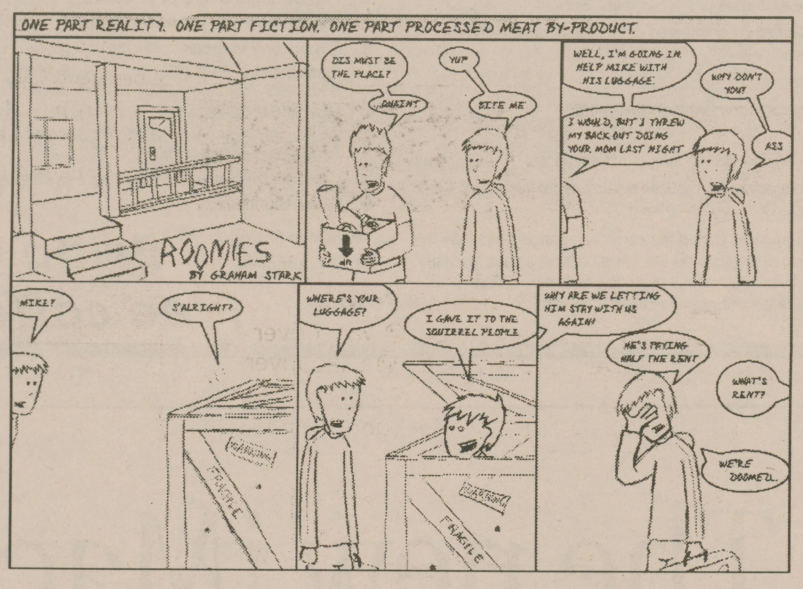




OLGA VAN TANDENBERG
Olga learns the secret to looking relaxed at the job interview
I'm not wearing underwear
Blah Blah Blah
Next, she'll learn to distinguish thoughts ...
I'm not wearing underwear
So how might you improve sales?
...from responses
I'm not wearing underwear
Britt Santowski ©2002




SAM & FUZZY
©2002 BY SAM LOGAN
HEY, FUZZ! HOW'S THE BRAND NAME GOING?
NOT AS I HAD EXPECTED, SAM.
NOT TOO GOOD, EH? WELL, I DON'T WANT TO SAY "I TOLD YOU SO," BUT--
NO, NO, THAT'S NOT IT. IT'S JUST THAT FUZZY BRAND HAS BECOME SO REPUTABLE, OTHER COMPANIES WANT THEIR PRODUCTS ASSOCIATED WITH ME.
WHAT?
THESE DAYS, IT SEEMS LIKE I'M GETTING MORE CHEQUES IN THE MAIL THAN I CAN CARRY!
IN ANY EVENT, HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO TRY A FUZZY-ENDORSED, REFRESHING KIWI COLA?
NO THANKS... I'M NOT FEELING TOO WELL...


ONE PART REALITY. ONE PART FICTION. ONE PART PROCESSED MEAT BY-PRODUCT.
ROOMIES
BY GRAHAM STARK
DIS MUST BE THE PLACE?
YUP
BARKIN'
BITE ME
WELL, I'M GOING IN HELP MIKE WITH HIS LUGGAGE.
WHY DON'T YOU?
I WISH I, BUT I THREW MY BACK OUT DOING YOUR MOM LAST NIGHT
ASS
MIKE?
S'ALRIGHT?
WHERE'S YOUR LUGGAGE?
I GAVE IT TO THE SQUIRREL YLOMI.
WHY ARE WE LETTING HIM STAY WITH US AGAIN!
HE'S PAYING HALF THE RENT
WHAT'S RENT?
WE'RE DOOMED.
FRAGILE

"I don't know what happened, Lois. There must be some Kryptonite in the room."

Billboards

on campus

Catholic Students' Association Mount Douglas Hike Montée. Sat., Oct. 12, 1- 4 p.m. Meet new friends and get a great view of Victoria. We'll rendezvous at 1 p.m. at Holy Cross parish, 4049 Gordon Head Road, then carpool to Mount Doug. Bring sturdy shoes and your water bottle.

Catholic Students' Association International Potluck, Sunday, Oct. 20 after the 4 p.m. Mass at Holy Cross Parish, 4049 Gordon Head Road. Bring a dish that expresses your cultural heritage. All welcome.

Calling all artists. The History in Art Student Society is holding a silent art auction Oct. 23 and 24. If you would like to make some money for your art, please contact historyinart@hotmail.com. Submissions no later than Oct. 21.

Victoria Entrepreneurship Challenge Win $10,000. Come out to our "Forming a Team" workshop on Oct. 15, 7 to 9 p.m. HSD A240. Register online at www.gvec.ca by Nov. 1.

off campus

Rally to stop the "Working Forest" Sat., Oct. 19, Noon at Centennial Square; 12:30 p.m. at the legislature. Please come to this most important, peaceful rally and help stop the proposed anti-protected areas law that gives incontestable logging rights on all of B.C.'s public forest lands. Speakers, street theatre, music. Sponsored by the Western Canada Wilderness Committee.

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2001 JVC Stereo, CD, 2 Tape, radio, remote control, 3-piece, original packaging. $100. Call Anne at 370-9653.

Engl 101: 101 ways to improve your grades. e-book $4.50; booklet $6. trippinglightlybooks.com

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announcements

Attention Writers and Artists! The English Students' Course Union is again accepting submissions of poetry/prose/artwork for our literary arts journal, *Chaos*. Send works to escu@uvic.ca or drop off a hard copy in our box in the English Dept., 3rd floor, Clearihue.

wanted

Apple iBook. Call Stewart at 884-7691.

Two lonely girls disappointed with men. Need house plants. muzukashicoconut@hotmail.com

hey you

It's not sweat; it's drool/slobber. Where are you, anyway?

I watched you drink a single-serving sized carton of 2% milk. I thought, "Bold. Not many people drink milk straight-up, let alone 2%." Hey, I'm not vegan.

Jaime loves J. Lo 4-ever.

Finland, Finland, Finland. Quite a long way from Taiwan. Not so far from Japan.

Today I learned that clodhoppers come from Winnipeg, "Fuck Her Gently" is not a good song to put a girl in the mood, and zip-up hoodie chivalry is dead.

It's not all bad. Honestly. Sometimes, unlooked for, even the dullest days can scintillate!

University of Victoria Students' Society / Canadian Federation of Students Local 44

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

October 17th, 2002 – 11:30am Michele Pujol Room (Small Side)

*Please Recycle

AGENDA

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Ratification of Speaker**
3. **Review of Robert's Rules of Order**
4. **Adoption of Agenda**
   a) Adoption of the 02/10/17 AGM Agenda
5. **Special Resolution**
   Motion GM 02/10/17:01
   Be it resolved that Bylaw six (6) be repealed and replaced with a revised Bylaw six (6) as presented:

BYLAW SIX — ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

6.1 Election of Constituency Organization Representatives to the Board of Directors
Constituency Organization Representatives shall be elected at a general meeting of their respective constituency organization as per the constitution of that constituency organization.

6.2 Election of At-Large and Executive Directors to the Board of Directors
At-Large and Executive Directors shall be elected by the members of the Students' Society.

6.3 Electorate
All active members in good standing of the UVSS, as per Bylaw 2.1, may vote in any election or referenda.

6.4 Maintenance of Electoral Committee

The Students' Society shall maintain an electoral committee at all times which shall be responsible for the administration of all elections to fill At-Large and Executive positions on the Board of Directors.

a. The electoral committee shall be comprised of three [3] directors, one of whom shall be an executive director.
b. No member of the electoral committee shall seek re-election while serving on the electoral committee.
c. The electoral committee shall ensure that all elections occur in the manner prescribed by this Bylaw and the policy of the Students' Society.
d. The electoral committee shall determine the eligibility of all nominated candidates according to Article Four of this Bylaw.
e. The electoral committee may disqualify a candidate, or rule an election invalid for any violation of these Bylaws.
f. The electoral committee shall decide the form of the ballot provided that the nominees for each office be listed in alphabetical order by surname.
g. The electoral committee shall make, in the event of a strike, circumstance beyond human control, or other event that may delay the electoral procedure, a decision as to how and when the electoral procedure may best be completed.
h. The electoral committee shall submit a report on the conduct and results of all elections to the Board of Directors for ratification.

6.5 Eligibility

a. Nominees for any position on the Board of Directors must be members of the Students' Society.
b. In order to seek election to the Board of Directors, members must be nominated by not less than fifteen [15] other members of the Students' Society.
c. Nominees shall run for only one position on the Board of Directors.
d. Members of the Students' Society shall not be executive directors for more than two years.

6.6 Conduct of Nominees

a. Nominees for all positions shall not commence campaigning until after the close of nominations.
b. Nominees shall ensure that all their campaign information is removed from public display by midnight the last day of polling.
c. All UVSS candidates and their supporters shall not distribute material during the campaign period which has the effect or purpose of offending or demeaning a person or group of persons on the basis of race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, nationality, religion, family or marital status, physical or mental disability, age, sex, sexual orientation, or conviction for a criminal charge; or seriously threatening or intimidating a person.

6.7 Voting

a. The directors shall be elected by a secret ballot of the members.
b. Students on co-op workterms will have every opportunity to vote.
c. Members of the Students' Society may vote only once for each position in an election.
d. If only one nomination is received for a particular Executive position, members shall be asked on the ballot to approve or disapprove of the nominee. The nominee must receive the approval of the majority of ballots cast to be declared duly elected.
e. If only one nomination is received for each Director-at-Large position, the candidates will be acclaimed and considered duly elected.
f. Sealed ballot boxes are to be returned to the office specified by the electoral committee. Counting of ballots will be overseen by the electoral committee. The nominees receiving a **plurality** of votes cast shall be declared duly elected.
g. Each nominee may appoint a scrutineer to oversee the counting of ballots.
h. Ballots shall not be destroyed without the consent of a majority of the Board of Directors.

6.8 Recounts and Appeals

a. A nominee may request a recount of votes cast, provided such request is made in writing to the electoral committee within seven [7] days following the committee's announcement of election results.
b. A nominee may appeal any decision of the electoral committee to a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Students' Society.
c. Each candidate may call for no more than one [1] recount.

6.9 Electoral Policy of the UVSS

The Board of Directors shall set Electoral Policy to govern the elections of Directors as well as referenda within the rules set out by these bylaws.

a. The Electoral Committee shall be responsible for carrying out the Electoral Policy of the UVSS.
b. Nominees shall abide by all rules set out in the Electoral Policy

Motion GM 02/02/07:02
Be it resolved that Bylaw 25.1 (b) be amended to include Constituency Council and Communications Committee.

Motion GM 02/02/07:03
Be it resolved that Bylaw 2.1 be amended to include a new point "d. all current execuitve directors of the Society."

Motion GM 02/10/17:04
Be it resolved that the following sub-section be added to by-law 13.6 Salary and Honoraria of Executive Directors:
d. Executive Directors who are parents shall receive monthly payments equal to fifty per cent of the cost of their childcare.

6. **Report of the Board of Directors**
7. **Question Period** *limited to 30 (thirty) minutes.*
8. **Report on Finances**
   Motion GM 02/10/17:05
   Be it resolved that the 2001/2002 Audited Financial Statements be accepted.
   Motion GM 02/10/17:05
   Be it resolved that the 2002/2003 Budget be adopted as presented.
   Motion GM 02/10/17:06
   Be it resolved that the Accounting firm Blain Allen Inc. be appointed as the official auditors of the UVSS.
9. **Other Business**
10. **Notice of Motion**
11. **Adjournment**

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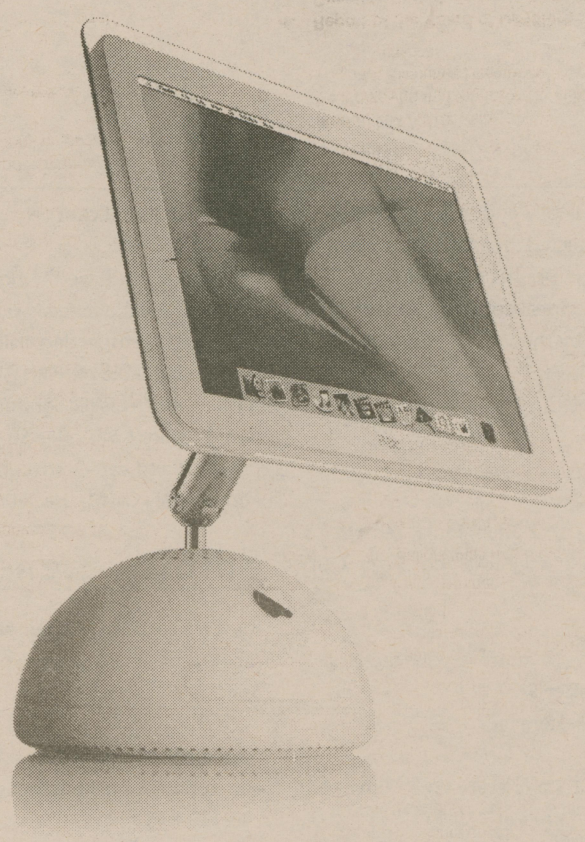

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